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The New York Times

Albright among history's victims

8-page pullout

Privatization of the rails

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Don't dress up for a farce from London

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Hizbullah wounds seven soldiers in zone

By DAVID RUDGE

Seven Nahal Brigade soldiers were wounded — one seriously, two moderately and four lightly — in the security zone yesterday as heavy exchanges broke the temporary lull in the fighting in south Lebanon.

IAF warplanes and helicopter gunships struck at Hizbullah targets north of the zone, as the IDF gunners, in response to the clash in which the soldiers were wounded.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, saying members of its fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, had ambushed a unit of IDF troops which itself had been going out on ambush duty.

It later transpired, however, that

the soldiers had surprised a Hizbullah squad in the rocky and bush-covered terrain en route to plant explosive devices in the area.

The Nahal Brigade troops were on operational duties in the zone's western sector, north of the IDF's Karkun position.

The gunmen apparently spotted the IDF troops first and opened fire, but then fled, leaving behind large quantities of explosives and their own weapons, including rifles and ammunition.

During the clash, Hizbullah support units fired mortars and Sagger anti-tank missiles at the soldiers from north of the zone. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

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Security talks start Sunday

PM, Arafat agree in meeting at Erez

By DAVID MAKOVSKY, JON IMMANUEL and agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed last night that eight panels dealing with security and other issues will begin negotiating on Sunday.

"I think this is a promising continuation of the Hebron agreement," Netanyahu told reporters after the two-hour meeting at the Erez junction. "We are continuing in that spirit of cooperation to



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, accompanied by Foreign Minister David Levy, meets with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday at the civil administration headquarters at the Erez junction. (Reuters)

Hanegbi won't recommend pardon for three prisoners, Page 3

resolve all our outstanding problems and matters."

"We had a very important meeting just now," Arafat said. "We discussed the details of the problems we are facing, especially the points which have to be implemented after the Hebron agreement."

The panels, which are called for

in the recent Hebron pullback accord, include ones regarding the establishment of a Palestinian airport in Gaza's Dahaniya area, the construction of a Gaza seaport and safe passage for Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza.

The IDF is expected to head the Israeli side of the talks, since the main point of contention over these issues is Israel's insistence

on adequate security provisions to prevent smuggling into the territories and unauthorized entry into Israel.

The "people to people" committee, headed on the Palestinian side by Israel liaison Sufian Abu Zayde, is to promote non-governmental relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Other talks to resume include

those on transferring Israeli excise

Court injunction issued on prisoner release, Page 3

taxes and other monies to the PA, whose financial distress emerged

as one of Arafat's major concerns last night. The economics committee is to meet this week, headed by Arafat's economic adviser Khaled Salam.

Under the Paris economic agreement of 1994, Israel agreed to rebate to the PA tax money collected from Palestinians in the fol-

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French envoy links withdrawal to Golan deal

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

A unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon would not succeed without a pullback on the Golan, and therefore France would most likely refuse to station troops as a buffer force, in southern Lebanon, French Ambassador Jean Noel de Lacoste said last night.

De Lacoste's comments seem to shoot down a scenario put forward recently by Labor MK Yossi Beilin, namely that Israel would need third-party help for a unilateral pullback from Lebanon to succeed, and mentioning France by name. Beilin cited a pledge by French Foreign Minister Hevre de Charette during Operation Grapes of Wrath, that France would be able to deploy troops in southern Lebanon at any time. But this no longer seems to be French policy.

The French ambassador indicated it would be futile for Israel to believe it could

resolve the situation in southern Lebanon without dealing with the Golan Heights. He suggested Syria would use violence in southern Lebanon until Israel made concessions on the Heights.

"If there is no deal with Syria, I don't see us intervening to separate [Israel and Hizbullah]. The Lebanon solution is tied to the Golan," de Lacoste said. "We don't believe anything that is unilateral can be successful. I don't think a [unilateral] withdrawal from Lebanon would be accepted by Syria. I personally don't see 'Lebanon First' as a way out."

The ambassador sharply denied that tomorrow's visit by French Defense Minister Charles Millon would result in any spirit for a French buffer force in southern Lebanon. He said Millon's visit should be seen as part of an effort to bolster military cooperation between the two countries.

EU wrote letter of Hebron assurance to Arafat

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The European Union wrote a letter of assurance to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat on the eve of the Hebron deal pledging that it would "use all its political and moral weight" to ensure that the agreement is "fully implemented."

EU Middle East peace coordinator Miguel Moratinos said the letter helped clinch the Hebron accord. It was officially presented to Arafat after the agreement was signed.

The letter, which was signed by Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo, whose country holds the rotating chairmanship of the EU, was apparently written at Arafat's behest. The letter seems to explain Arafat's effusive praise of Europe's "political" role during his visit to the Netherlands.

According to the agreement, Israel not only is committed to pulling back in Hebron, but also to completing three further pullbacks in the West Bank over the next year-and-a-

half.

In an interview last week, Moratinos refused to discuss the letter in detail, but did deny an interpretation of it that Europe would put massive pressure upon Israel if Israel does not live up to its side of the agreement. Europe is Israel's largest trading partner.

"We are against pressure," Moratinos said. "We believe the approach to take is to seek to persuade the parties to move forward on peace."

He said that the contents of the letter were drafted after consultations with the US. Former secretary of state Warren Christopher wrote a letter of assurance to both sides, but the language in them reportedly falls short of the European text.

In the US letter to the Palestinians, Christopher reportedly said the US is "committed" to full implementation, while that to Israel does not go beyond saying that the US policy is to "support and promote" full implementation.

In apparent deference to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who has championed the phrase, the EU letter

to the Palestinians includes the idea of "reciprocity." Moratinos insisted that Netanyahu was aware of the EU letter before it was sent.

The EU letter, which was first disclosed in *The Jordan Times* two weeks ago, reads as follows:

Dear Mr. President,

In my capacity as president of the Council of Ministers of the European Union allow me, first of all, to congratulate you on the occasion of the signing of the protocol in implementation of Israeli redeployment in Hebron and the connected documents.

As you are well aware, the European Union, through its special envoy to the Middle East peace process, has been in close contact with all the parties involved in order to help achieve this important breakthrough. The Hebron negotiations demonstrated that only the parties to the conflict can ultimately resolve their differences.

Continued on Page 2

Antwerp Jews bid to recover Nazi-looted diamonds

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — All that glitters is not looted gold. It could be diamonds.

The Jewish community of Antwerp, emboldened by the renewed interest in Swiss banks and Nazi loot, is trying to recover its plundered diamonds. "These could be more valuable than the dormant Swiss accounts, according to an official of the Centrale, representing the Jews of the Flemish region."

The bid for the diamonds is part of the unfolding picture of how Jewish communities in Western Europe failed to recover their property after World War II. Recent revelations have focused on France, where the Paris Municipality apparently owns flats that had been confiscated from Jews.

The diamonds may be the most valuable of all looted properties, although the Centrale could not estimate the losses. Diamonds are largely a cash business without adequate records. However, the

stolen gems must have been worth tens of millions of dollars during the war era, said the official. "With one handful of diamonds, you can live for a lifetime," he said.

Gems were taken during raids on the diamond exchange, where the overwhelming majority of the dealers were Jews. "People had to drop them on the ground, and the Germans took everything," the Centrale official said last week.

Even though there is no estimate of the value of the loss, there is evidence of the theft. When some dealers were arrested by the Nazis, they were forced to pay what was called a "guarantee" in diamonds. At liberation, some surviving dealers had returned to them empty envelopes that apparently were used when the gems were collected. The Centrale has some of these original envelopes, which

show a stamp of the Reich, the name of the raiding unit, the name of the dealer, and the number of carats taken.

"We have no indication if some of the goods were [recovered] after the war by American or Belgian authorities or hidden, for example, in Switzerland," the Centrale official said.

The Swiss angle surfaced last fall, with the release of one of the "Safehaven" files — part of the trove of intelligence documents that have been used in the Swiss banks inquiry.

That document, a 1948 memorandum from the Belgian Mission in Germany to US military authorities, said that the Nazis in 1940 took millions of dollars in diamonds and control of 1,200 diamond workshops in Antwerp. The

Continued on Page 4

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NEWS

in brief

Aguda's Rabbi Feldman dies

Rabbi Moshe Ze'ev Feldman, the chairman of Agudat Yisrael, died yesterday in Jerusalem. He was 67.

Feldman's entry into the world of politics came as a surprise to Aguda circles, who had known him as a yeshiva head and recognized him as a leading scholar. During his tenure as a Knesset member, he had been among those who tried to maneuver an alliance between the haredi parties and Labor.

Haim Shapiro

Taxi fares up 4.3%

Taxi fares are to rise by 4.3 percent from tomorrow, the Transportation Ministry announced yesterday. According to the newly revised fares, taxi meters are to be adjusted to a starting fare of NIS 6.20, instead of NIS 6. The starting fare in Eilat is to be NIS 5.20. The Ministry also has decided that taxis are to charge a flat NIS 2.40 when called by telephone.

Sherut taxi fares (from 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.) are to be NIS 15.40 between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, NIS 17.90 between Tel Aviv and Haifa and NIS 23 between Jerusalem and Beersheba. The surcharge for taxis leaving Ben-Gurion Airport is to remain NIS 5 and that for suitcases is to stay NIS 2 per bag.

Haim Shapiro

Assad reportedly was in coma

Syrian President Hafez Assad spent two weeks in a coma and was revived by Russian doctors in January, the *Sunday Times* reported yesterday. Officially, Assad went into the hospital for surgery to treat a prostate problem.

"Sources in Damascus say the 66-year-old president collapsed in late December and spent two weeks in a coma," the newspaper said, citing government sources. "Assad last week was said to be making a slow recovery. He has appeared in public looking pale and weak.... Damascus has been abuzz with rumors about who will succeed Assad and there are fears that traditional rivalries could erupt in a bloody struggle for power once he dies."

Reuters

Radio has become more popular

Ten percent more people are listening to the radio today than six months ago, according to a poll taken by the Second Television and Radio Authority, with the largest increase, some 6%, going to regional radio. Red Sea Voice in Eilat has the most listeners, 37.3%, with Radio Tel Aviv in the Dan area having to make do with a 4.1% listener share. The central area religious station, Kol HaTor, which weighed in only last November, has 11.6%, with the other seven ranging from eight to around 17%.

Helen Kaye

'Trees of Peace' campaign coming to Israel

Native American Red Indian Chief Jake Swamp, spiritual teacher of the Mohawks, is visiting Israel as part of his Trees of Peace campaign. Swamp aims to plant a billion trees around the world in the name of peace. Two million already have been planted in different places, including the grounds of the UN building in New York, Geneva and along the remains of the Berlin Wall. The Native American leader is the guest of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

Liat Collins

The South African Zionist Federation (Israel)

extends heartfelt condolences to the

Misheiker Family

on the tragic loss of their son

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In the terrible helicopter accident.

We share in their grief and mourn with all the bereaved families and the people of Israel

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Deepest sympathy on the death

of your

Father ז"ל

Our condolences to the family.

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To Zvi Liberman

Deepest sympathy on the death

of your

Father ז"ל

Our condolences to the family.

Allalouf & Co. Shipping

AMIT Women

and the AMIT Network of Educational Projects

join the House of Israel

in mourning the tragic passing of

73 dedicated sons

and send heartfelt condolences

to the bereaved families.

המקום יתום אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Mordechai remains against pullout

By LIAT COLLINS, DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

The IDF will use all its force to protect northern residents while Israel continues to exhaust all means to reach peace that would enable a withdrawal from south Lebanon, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai declared yesterday.

Mordechai reiterated that there would be no pullout from the security zone until circumstances arise that will guarantee the security and safety of northern communities.

"When a formula or solution is found, the soldiers, the officers and ourselves will be more than happy," Mordechai said.

"As long as there is no reasonable solution, we will use our power at the appropriate time. At the same time, we will continue in every way to seek a political solution - a solution of peace," Mordechai said.

The defense minister spoke to reporters during a visit to Nahal Brigade soldiers at an outpost on the border with Lebanon.

Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, who accompanied Mordechai, told *The Jerusalem Post* that "unilateral withdrawal is out of the question. This is my view, and you have just heard the minister say the same thing. In my opinion, it would mean the seeds of much more trouble, much more bloodshed than we have today. It could mean that we would face another war."

Meanwhile, the cross-party group of MKs calling for an IDF redeployment leading to a withdrawal from the security zone won both additional members and detractors yesterday.

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) said he would join the group initiated by MK Gideon Ezra (Likud) while Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said, "A decision for a unilateral pullback would be hasty, irresponsible and lacking in forethought."

The group of MKs has earned the nickname "The Kochav Yair Circle" since the first meeting was held Saturday night at Ezra's home in that settlement. Those present included MKs from four different parties - Michael Eitan (Likud), Yossi Beilin (Labor), Yehuda Harel (Third Way) and Yitzhak Cohen (Shas) as well as Ezra - and former General Security Service head Ya'acov Perry; former senior GSS member Yossi Ginosar; retired major-general Haim Erez; and Danny Rothchild; and Yisrael Harel, one of the leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

"We wanted to raise various ideas about the continuation of the process in Lebanon," Ezra told Israel Radio.

"We are speaking of things that must be done from tomorrow morning," he told Army Radio in another interview.

Cohen said he is against a unilateral pullback but favors weighing different options such as reducing the size of the security zone, a gradual pullback or the deployment of an international force in the area to replace the IDF while reducing friction between Hizbullah and south Lebanese residents who have helped the IDF.

Beilin, one of the initiators of the group, said there is a general agreement that the IDF cannot stay in Lebanon under the current circumstances. He proposes using US and/or French mediation to bring about an agreement to disarm Hizbullah, massive IDF redeployment on the Israeli side of the border and merging the SLA with the Lebanese Army. Israel would get international backing if it was necessary to retaliate for Hizbullah violations of the agreement, Beilin said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called yesterday for an end to the growing public debate on a unilateral IDF pullout from south Lebanon, saying the talk could encourage attacks on IDF soldiers.

"This talk, during days of mourning and emotional upheaval, might encourage the terrorists in Lebanon to step up their attacks on Israeli soldiers," said a statement issued by Netanyahu's spokesman.

MKs mixed over 'Kochav Yair Circle' plan

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OC Air Force imposes safety measures

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In a sign of confidence, OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu copilot a CH-53 helicopter in the squadron which lost two of its choppers, and said training must go on despite the tragic crash which took the lives of 73 military men.

Meanwhile, the commission of inquiry headed by David Ivry, a former IAF commander, took its investigation into the air, flying in a CH-53 as a pair of them simulated the fatal flight. They flew in a similar pattern in order to get an idea of the situation which led to the collision.

The commission also is empowered to make recommendations regarding future regulations and the flights yesterday are likely to aid it in this task.

The commission is expected to submit its interim report by the end of the week, and not at today's cabinet meeting as some reports suggested.

In the meantime, Ben-Eliyahu has instructed the CH-53 squadrons to take "temporary safety measures" until the Ivry commission submits its recommendations. The Air Force refused to elaborate, but the measures are principally concerned with increasing the distance between flying choppers.

"I can't allow for the Yasur [CH-53] squadrons to continue flying as if nothing happened," Ben-Eliyahu said. "So we will determine a number of temporary restrictions and at the end of the week I, like all of us, hope to receive the conclusions and determine whether there is a need to set permanent rules in the future."

Ben-Eliyahu made the comments following a meeting with the CH-53 squadron to which the two helicopters which collided belonged. Yesterday was the first day that they returned to training and Ben-Eliyahu, an F-15 pilot, took over as copilot of one of the helicopters.

"I am returning from a training exercise with the Yasur squadron," Ben-Eliyahu said. "This is the squadron in which the accident happened. This morning this squadron returned to routine activity, albeit gradually, but routine."

CH-53 helicopters were seen performing training exercises in the hills southeast of the Tel Nof air base where, according to *Jane's World Air Forces*, the IAF's two CH-53 transport helicopter squadrons are based.

"The activity has really taken on an encouraging pace. I wish everyone could see it," Ben-Eliyahu said.

Last night, Ben-Eliyahu met with top Air Force commanders as well as veteran CH-53 pilots and discussed ways of increasing safety procedures.

Nahal soldier stoic despite brigade's losses

DAVID RUDGE

The Nahal Brigade, which suffered heavy losses in last week's helicopter disaster in addition to four soldiers killed in Lebanon last month, continues its duties in the security zone.

For the troops themselves, it is a case of carrying on despite the trauma and sense of bereavement; shouldering the additional burden caused by the losses.

It is not an easy task for the young soldiers, neither emotionally nor physically, especially when any day they might find themselves in life-threatening situations, whether on the roads or in the air.

They also know only too well why they are serving in the security zone and along the northern border, and what their presence means to the safety and well-being of residents of the country's northern communities.

They have their tasks and they intend to see them through. That's the message Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai received when he visited the brigade's soldiers at a border outpost yesterday.

Soldier Shaked Knaan, 20, of Kibbutz Sarid in the Jezreel Valley, explained the feelings of the soldiers following the brigade's recent losses.

"We lost a whole team, 10 people, each of them a world of his own," he said. "We were a small unit before and every person is important. We have to see now how we cope with this. It's not easy."

"It's clear that we have to continue and try to fill their places, even though it will be very difficult. But we will succeed. It's also clear that everybody needs a bit of time to rest, to think, to calm down; both here with everybody and at home."

"The first thing, though, is the work that needs to be done in the field, which we have to continue."

"I didn't know [those killed in the helicopter disaster] personally, but we met and saw each other and you know that they are part of you and your framework."

"When it comes after the incidents that occurred here a week ago and three weeks ago, in which friends I was closer to were killed, it makes it even more difficult to accept."

Asked if it were difficult for him to serve in south Lebanon after what happened, Knaan replied: "It's not easy, but you do it. When you go in you don't think about it too much, although that doesn't prevent you from thinking."

"Maybe it's a bit more difficult now for you as an individual and for your family. But incidents have happened and are happening all the time."

"When I enlisted I knew the dangers. Everybody here knows the dangers, but there's nothing you can do about it. We have to accept the dangers, although obviously everybody tries to avoid endangering him-

Deri questioned again in Bar-On case

By Jerusalem Post Staff

MK Aryeh Deri (Shas) was questioned about the alleged "Bar-On-for-Hebron" deal yesterday for the third time. Channel 1 reported last night that he was questioned under caution, but police refused to confirm or deny this.

Police are to question Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the alleged deal when he returns from the US next week, his office announced yesterday.

"The prime minister has expressed his readiness to present testimony concerning the investi-

gation relating to the appointment of the attorney-general," his spokesman said.

Lawyer David Shimron, who is considered close to Netanyahu, was questioned yesterday.

In light of the evidence gathered so far, police want to question Netanyahu about the process by which Roni Bar-On was appointed attorney-general.

Several other individuals already questioned are expected to be summoned for further questioning this week. The probe is currently focusing on suspicions of fraud and breach of trust by several of those involved in the case.

The head of the investigative team, Cmdr. Sando Mazor, said yesterday that the police believe that the first stage of the investigation - now in its third week - will end this week. At that point, the police and the State Attorney's Office will consult about what direction the investigation should take in the coming weeks.

"The direction of the inquiry is now clear to the investigating team. The scope of the material under discussion has required me to add two more people to the investigating team. The picture is

clearer to us now than it was at the beginning. Next week we'll focus on the main relevant points which developed from the initial stage of the investigation," Mazor said.

Several of the individuals already questioned are suspected of involvement in criminal activities and may be questioned next week under caution. However, the police do not yet have sufficient evidence to support Channel 1's claims alleging a deal where Bar-On would be appointed attorney-general in exchange for a plea bargain in Deri's trial, or evidence to back up allegations



Painful memories

Relatives of the victims of the 1994 bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish Community Center comfort one another yesterday, at the dedication of a Jewish National Fund forest in Modi'in in memory of the 95 persons killed.

(Ariel Jerolimski)

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Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or a note.

Hanegbi: No pardons for 3 Palestinian women prisoners

By EVELYN GORDON

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday he refuses to recommend a pardon for three Palestinian women whom the Prime Minister's Office wants released from prison.

Though it is the president who grants pardons, requests for them must be made by the justice minister. Thus, President Ezer Weizman cannot act until Hanegbi submits a recommendation, and Hanegbi could prevent the pardon by refusing to

submit a recommendation.

Hanegbi's decision does not obviate a petition filed yesterday to the High Court of Justice against the planned prisoner releases, however, since it does not affect some of the cases referred to.

The petition is directed against two female murderers whose pardons were recommended by the previous government a year and a half ago, but never implemented by then OC Central Command Dan Biran, the only one authorized to grant pardons to people convicted

by military courts (the president's authority extends only to those convicted by civilian courts).

Hanegbi has no authority over these cases, as pardons for people convicted by a military court are recommended by the defense minister rather than the justice minister. According to the Justice Ministry, the three requests Hanegbi opposes are new requests that have never been brought to the president.

Weizman has already signed all the pardons of female Palestinian prisoners recommended by the previous government, as well as those of three women whose release was recommended by former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman. The three women whose release Hanegbi is blocking are Su'ad Darwish, convicted of the murder of Ehud Levy in Tel Aviv in 1990; Wafa Musabah, who tried to kill a border policeman near Jerusalem in 1995; and Nafa Gimar, who tried to kill a warder in 1989.

Weizman refused to comment yesterday on the issue.

Court injunction issued on release

By EVELYN GORDON

The High Court of Justice issued an interim injunction yesterday against the government's decision to pardon Palestinian murderers as a goodwill gesture towards the Palestinians.

The injunction was issued in response to a petition by Ora Klein — whose husband, Zvi, was killed in 1991 by a terror gang commanded by one of them, Abir Wahidi — and the Terror Victims Association. The court will hear the petition this morning.

The petition, by attorney Naftali Werzberger, argued that the releases are essentially part of a general amnesty rather than pardons granted on an individual basis for humanitarian reasons, and therefore require Knesset legislation. While the president has authority to grant individual pardons, only the Knesset can authorize an amnesty. Furthermore, the petition argued, the decision to release murderers just because they happen to be women is unreasonable and discriminatory. There is no way to justify denying pardons to some murderers while granting them to others whose crimes were equally cold-blooded, just because the former are male and the latter are female, the petition said.

The planned prisoner release constitutes "moral bankruptcy which will put an end to the rule of law," the petition continued, as it proves that any crime can be pardoned if the pardon serves the government's political purposes. Under this logic, said TVA head Meir Indor, there is no reason why the government should not, for instance, arrange a plea-bargain for MK Aryeh Deri in order to keep Shas in the coalition. That would be no more egregious a sacrifice of the principles of justice to political expediency than this release, he said.

Finally, the petition argued, the planned release will endanger Israeli lives, by showing that Palestinian terrorists who kill Israelis do not have to fear lengthy prison terms.

The women were originally supposed to have been released as part of the 1995 Interim Agreement signed with the PLO, but President Ezer Weizman refused to grant two of the necessary pardons, saying he would not pardon anyone with "blood on their hands." Then OC Central Command Dan Biran followed his lead and refused to grant pardons to two other women (prisoners convicted by military courts can be pardoned only by the army, rather than by the president). After the elections, Weizman signed pardons for the two he had previously refused to pardon.

Coalition MKs rip plan to release women terrorists

LIAT COLLINS

News of the proposed Arab women prisoner release drew angry responses among some coalition MKs.

MK Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) said he would vote with the opposition against government proposals in the Knesset Finance Committee in the coming days as an act of protest. Hendel said he would take the unusual step because "Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has not honored his

promise to the NRP to discuss such measures with Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer, the NRP's representative on the ministerial steering committee on the negotiations with the Palestinians, and because the prime minister is not sticking to the principle of reciprocity in his decision to free Palestinian prisoners without making it conditional on terrorists who have found refuge in the autonomous areas being handed over to Israel."

NRP faction chairman Hanan

Porat demanded the premier freeze the procedure releasing the women terrorists until the government had discussed the issue.

"The NRP will not accept a situation in which it is turned into a rubber stamp asked to endorse the prime minister's dictates and decisions," he said.

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshert-Likud) has approached Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and President Ezer Weizman reminding them of the petition he submitted last month, signed by 17

MKs, which calls for the release of Jewish prisoners convicted of murdering Arabs in revenge for terror attacks.

Among those who signed the petition were the chairmen of four major Knesset committees: Law Committee head Shaul Yahalom (NRP), Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud), House Committee chairman Raphael Pinhasi and Finance Committee chairman Abraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) as well as Deputy Housing Minister

Meir Porush (UTJ) and Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled (Tsomet-Likud).

Although he originally asked only that the sentences of the Jewish prisoners convicted of the most serious crimes be commuted, Kleiner is now asking for their release in return for the release of two Arab-Israeli women prisoners. He said he would ensure any freed Jewish prisoner would sign a statement expressing regret and promising to refrain from future violent acts.

BACKGROUND

The delay in releasing prisoners with 'blood on their hands'

By JON IMMANUEL

The release of 23 female prisoners was expected to be the one certain outcome of the meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat last night.

"All female detainees and prisoners" were to have been released in September 1995, after the Oslo 2 accords were signed, but President Ezer Weizman refused to pardon two women whose names were on the list: "blood on their hands," and so most of the remaining 35 decided to stay in jail.

Under Israeli law, the president

had the legal right to overrule the prime minister on the issue.

As a result of Weizman's actions, then OC Central Command Maj. Gen. Dan Biran, who was formally responsible for pardoning West Bank residents, refused to pardon two others.

Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli adviser to Arafat, petitioned the High Court, saying Weizman had no right to block a political agreement witnessed by international cosponsors. Biran, a public employee, had no standing in the matter, he said. The High Court rejected the petition.

But by delaying pardons, Weizman put Israel in a corner. The women who were killers then are still killers today. If the original

reasons for denying pardons were ethical and legal, the turnaround today is clearly only political, the result of such pressure as the September riots.

Given the High Court's legal position, the decision to release prisoners now represents for this government a greater concession of principle than the decision to redeploy in Hebron, from which there was no legal escape.

Weizman himself met with Arafat shortly after the September riots to restore mutual confidence and agreed to pardon the prisoners. Weizman is now being pressured to release Jewish prisoners who killed Arabs and thus restore the appearance of ethical fairness.



Health Ministry honors exemplary health care workers

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu congratulates practical nurse Ananya Inbal, winner of the Health Ministry's outstanding worker award for 1996, at yesterday's annual Civil Service Prizes for Outstanding Accomplishment awards ceremony at the Knesset.

(Tasneem Harezi)

Women Palestinian murderers

The killers among the Palestinian women prisoners to be released are:

- Abir Wahidi, 27, convicted of commanding a Fatah cell which opened fire from a car on the Ramallah-Jerusalem highway at another car driven by Zvi Klein from Ofra, killing him. The Palestinians have always maintained that she did not do the shooting.
- Lamia Maarouf, 32, arrested in 1986 for being an accomplice to the kidnapping of soldier David Manus in 1985. As a Brazilian citizen, she was able to rent a car with Israeli plates. Palestinians maintain that her husband Tawfik was responsible and she only covered up for him.

Brazil expressed a willingness to take her in if Israel deported her.

- May Ghossein, a mother of five, was not jailed for murder but for attempting to stab a border policeman in Jerusalem. However, in jail she killed a Palestinian cellmate she accused of being a collaborator and was given a life sentence.
- Iman Jabber murdered yeshiva student Eliezer Schlesinger in Jerusalem's Sacher Park in 1988. Although she was an Israeli citizen, her crime was considered "nationalist" and therefore her release was demanded by the Palestinians. She was released last year after expressing regret.

Jon Immanuel

Jews jailed for killing Arabs

The following is a list of Jews convicted of killing Arabs who have been mentioned as candidates for pardons in light of the expected release of Palestinian women terrorists convicted of murder:

- Alan Goodman: Goodman, an immigrant from the US who had just recently been inducted into the IDF, burst into the Temple Mount in April 1982, and opened fire. In the shooting spree, one person was killed and 11 injured. He was sentenced to life in prison, plus 40 years.
- Danni Eisenman: Eisenman, a former policeman, was sentenced to life for killing cab driver Hamas 'Itanji in April 1985. The crime took place on the Ma'aleh Adumim-Jerusalem road, with the defendants, Eisenman, Gil Fuchs and Michal Heller, claiming the murder was to revenge the killing of cab driver David Caspi a few months earlier. Fuchs and Heller were later released.
- Nir Efroni: Efroni was sentenced to life in prison for the 1984 killing of an Arab gas station attendant in Zichron Ya'acov. He claimed to have done this in revenge for the killing of soldier Hadas Kodan.
- Nahshon Wohl: Wohl, a US immigrant, shot and killed Aziza Jabber, a pregnant woman on the way to the hospital, near Kiryat Arba on August 6, 1990. The Jerusalem District Court, saying the killings were premeditated, dismissed Wohl's plea that he acted under emotional strain following the terrorist killing of two Israeli youths in Jerusalem the previous week. He is serving a life term.
- Ani Popper: Popper was sentenced to seven life

terms for the murder of seven Palestinian workers near Rishon LeZion in May 1990. Popper claimed to have committed the murders because he was sexually assaulted as a youth by a Palestinian.

- Yoram Skolnic: Skolnic was convicted of murdering a bonded terrorist after the man stabbed a Jewish resident of Sussia in March 1993. Skolnic was sentenced to life, but an appeal is pending before the High Court of Justice.
- Four minors, affiliated with Kach, were sentenced for the murder of Abed Razak Adkadek in the butcher's market in Jerusalem's Old City in November 1992. Their names have not been released, because they were minors when they committed the crime. The youth who threw the grenade was sentenced to 15 years; two other youths who were involved were sentenced to 10 years each; and the fourth youth, who was the head of the group but did not take part in throwing the grenade, was sentenced to five years and since released.
- A Jewish youth from Shilo was sentenced for killing a shepherd near his settlement in December, 1993. The youth fled prison, went to the US, was arrested and extradited to Israel.
- Daniel Morali: Morali, of Ashkelon, was convicted of the premeditated murder of Riad Silimaya, of Kfar Idna, near Hebron, on March 25, 1994, and sentenced to life in prison. Morali shot Silimaya to death as Silimaya was praying on the side of the Kiryat Gat - Hebron road. A year earlier, Morali's brother was killed in a car accident that involved a Palestinian driver.

Herb Keiron

Israel Airports Authority

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON MANAGEMENT, COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR CAR PARKS AT THE BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISRAEL

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA), is considering the acquisition of a new management, command and control system of the car parks at the Ben-Gurion International Airport.

The Ben-Gurion area includes about 15 car parks for different purposes, that are connected to a central command and control system and are managed separately and/or together.

As part of this process and without any obligation, the IAA invites suppliers, that are interested to be included in the potential suppliers list, and fulfilling the following conditions, to reply in writing, including the name of a contact person, to: Computer and Information Systems, Head Office, Israel Airports Authority, P.O.B 137, Ben-Gurion International Airport, 70100, Israel. The reply shall include supporting documentation and details fulfilling the following conditions, including details on where and what similar systems were implemented, details on the ability to implement the Hebrew MMI, and details on the way the maintenance service requirements shall be fulfilled.

The reply shall reach the above address by the 20th February, 1997.

The following conditions have to be fulfilled, in order to be considered for inclusion in the potential suppliers list:

- Previous implementation of at least 2 similar operating systems, each of them including at least 10 car parks that are operating as one integrated system.
- Hebrew MMI.
- Agreeing to provide maintenance services, during the warranty period of at least 12 months, and during at least 5 more years, by an Israeli firm experienced in these kind of systems, with a response time of 4 hours to begin the repair activity and 24 hours to finish it.

More details and conditions will be included in the system specification document, if and when the IAA will request proposals for implementing the system.

It is declared and emphasized explicitly, that this publication made by the IAA is intended only for collecting information. This publication doesn't obligate IAA at all, and especially not regarding inclusion in the potential suppliers list and as to certifying suppliers to be capable candidates. The IAA shall be free to act in this matter, according to its sole discretion.

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WORLD

in brief

France's far right aims to capture 4th city hall

VITROLLES, France (AP) — France's mainstream political parties were uniting yesterday to try to head off a mayoral victory in this southern town by the far-right National Front, aiming to capture its fourth city hall.

Opponents of the Front were hoping a high turnout would help them in yesterday's second round of voting. Officials reported a turnout of more than 81 percent — 4 percent higher than last Sunday's first round.

With 40 percent of the votes counted, the National Front candidate, Catherine Megret, was leading her Socialist opponent, Jean-Jacques Anglade, by about 51 percent to just under 49 percent.

Five injured by WWII grenade in Berlin

BERLIN (Reuters) — Five children were injured here yesterday, two of them seriously, when a World War II grenade they were playing with exploded, a Berlin fire brigade spokesman said.

The explosion was probably caused by a World War II hand grenade. The children were playing with it and it went off, spokesman Matthias Walligora told journalists at the scene.

Police and firefighters evacuated apartment buildings surrounding the yard where the children, age 10 to 13, were playing, and the injured were taken to a hospital, Walligora said.

"I heard the explosion and came running out. I saw the children in the yard," said Christian Schroeder, 16, who lives nearby. He and a friend ran to help the children and called the emergency services.

Thai butcher dies after catching anthrax

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A butcher has died and 11 people have been hospitalized after being infected with anthrax, a contagious bacteria transmitted by sheep and cattle, a Bangkok newspaper reported yesterday.

The butcher, Surinman Pinchan, who died Friday in a hospital, was infected from contaminated beef, the *The Nation* said.

Bangkok officials have warned city residents not to eat raw or half-cooked beef, it said. A quarantine has been placed on cattle in Suan Luang, an outlying area of the capital where the people fell ill.

Anthrax is an infectious disease of animals that can infect humans through skin contact, ingestion and even inhaling the contaminated spores. It is usually fatal if not treated before it affects the brain.

Camilla's ex says she can wed Charles

LONDON (Reuters) — The former husband of Camilla Parker Bowles has told friends he hopes his ex-wife will win public acceptance and marry Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, the *Sunday Express* reported.

"Andrew Parker Bowles has confided that he believes public opinion should support the prince in his dream of one day making Camilla his wife," said the paper.

The paper said retired army officer Parker Bowles at one time the nation's best-known cuckold recently surprised friends at a dinner party by saying: "They would certainly have my blessing." One diner was quoted as telling the *Express* on Sunday.

"To many people, it would seem a remarkable and hard-to-believe act of forgiveness after all those painful headlines [detailing the long-running affair between Camilla and Charles]. But Andrew has found great happiness in his remarriage and genuinely wants Camilla to discover the same."

Relatives demand release of ailing Peru hostage

By ANITA SNOW

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Relatives of an ailing hostage marched outside the Japanese ambassador's residence, begging the armed rebels holding him and 71 others to let him go so he can get medical help.

"Respect the life of Juan Mendoza," read the signs carried by some of several dozen people who demonstrated outside the compound Saturday evening.

Mendoza, the Peruvian vice minister of energy and mines, suffers from a hernia and requires immediate attention, said his wife, Enriqueta.

Meanwhile, a separate rebel group apparently bombed a private office building yesterday

morning, in a reminder of the guerrilla violence that has plagued this Andean nation in recent years.

The blast at 5:30 a.m. caused major damage but no deaths or injuries.

Police said they found pamphlets at the scene indicating that Maoist Shining Path rebels planted about a pound of dynamite, Radio Programas said.

Details about the blast were sketchy. Some early news reports said the targeted business was an electrical power firm.

The Shining Path is not related to the Tupac Amaru rebels, who are holding hostages in the Japanese ambassador's home, and has criticized them for not being sufficiently "revolutionary."

New Ecuador president takes office

By MONTE HAYES

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Congress named Vice President Rosalia Arteaga as Ecuador's president early yesterday, in a military-backed move that replaced deposed chief executive Abdala Bucaram.

There were no more official details on the action, but congressional sources told reporters that the agreement called for Arteaga to resign in a few days and for congressional leader Fabian Alarcon to assume the post.

The unanimous vote marked a likely end to a governing crisis that emerged when Bucaram was ousted by Congress on Thursday. He had refused to accept the decision. Both Alarcon and Arteaga also contended for the office and Ecuadoreans turned to the armed forces — Ecuador's final arbiter of power — to resolve the conflict.

Arteaga, 40, accepted the post at 4 a.m. yesterday, making her Ecuador's first female chief executive.

Speaking on national television from her office next to the national palace, the new president said she had waged "a very important struggle against corruption, and urged political reconciliation among opposing factions."

The new president said she had waged "a very important struggle against corruption," and urged political reconciliation among opposing factions.

"The armed forces were prudent, patriotic and honest in dealing with the crisis. They are an example to Latin America," she said.

Arteaga on Sunday received the support of the armed forces, which announced their subordination to the new president and to "the legitimately elected authority of the National Congress." In a communique, the military also reaffirmed its "unbreakable democratic calling."

Her appointment came after Bucaram, known as "El Loco," or "the crazy one," conceded for the first time earlier Sunday that he had been left without power.

"Unfortunately, I couldn't finish my term, but let's see if the next government will be able to fulfill the promises I made to increase the salaries of workers and the military by 25 percent," said Bucaram.

The congressional agreement called for Alarcon to call new presidential elections within a year.

It was not immediately clear how long Arteaga would remain president or why Congress took the route of first naming her to the job.



Ecuador's Vice President Rosalia Arteaga celebrates with two of her sons at her office in Quito after being informed that the Congress agreed to name her to the presidency yesterday. She is accompanied by her sons Pedro (left) and Daniel. (AP)

Sweden to probe alleged Nazi exports

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — The Swedish foreign ministry said yesterday that it would look into allegations that the country's industry supplied parts for Nazi Germany's deadly V-2 rockets, which killed thousands of people in Belgium and England.

"We take this information very seriously and we will look into the matter," a foreign ministry spokeswoman told Reuters.

"We will do what we can to shed light on the matter. We will go through material in Sweden and we assume we will get access to the new material."

The World Jewish Congress released a letter on Friday in which a New York port official

told the US Secretary of State Edward Sternius that an American ship had discovered V-2 rocket parts labeled "Made in Sweden." The V2, according to then British prime minister Winston Churchill's memoirs, killed 2,724 people in England and injured 6,476 during seven months in 1944.

Some 1,300 were fired at England and several hundred were fired in 1944 against Belgium.

Sweden, which was neutral during World War II, had close trade links with Nazi Germany and allowed German troops to pass through the country by train on their way to and from neighboring Norway, which was

occupied by the Nazis.

Sweden also sold iron ore to Germany for its munitions industry.

The WJC also released a previously secret US intelligence document quoting "reliable sources" as saying that some Swedish Red Cross representatives carried illegal correspondence between Nazis in Germany to sympathizers in Sweden after the war.

The 1946 document said the letters were carried "at a price," and that the representatives took cheaply bought silverware, paintings and art objects from war-ravaged Germany for resale at higher prices in Sweden.

Leaders meet on Tajik hostage crisis

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — Tajikistan's president met with Afghanistan's top military commander yesterday to discuss ways to gain the release of 15 international hostages held by a Tajik rebel commander.

But there was no word of progress toward ending the five-day-old hostage stalemate.

President Emomali Rakhmonov talked for over an hour with Afghan military commander Ahmed Shah Masoud in the southeastern city of Kulyab, 200 kilometers from the Tajik capital Dushanbe, Russian news agencies reported.

Neither side disclosed details of the talks, but Rakhmonov went back to Dushanbe and immediately convened an emergency session of his government, Interfax reported.

The rebel unit led by Bakhtam Sadirov is holding nine UN workers, four Russian journalists and their driver and Tajikistan's security minister, who was seized Saturday when he went to negotiate with the kidnappers.

In response to the wave of kidnappings, the United Nations and the Red Cross have evacuated most of their staff from Tajikistan, a former Soviet republic in Central Asia torn by four years of civil war.

Sadirov has been demanding that his brother Rezvon, a renegade guerrilla commander, and his followers be allowed back into Tajikistan from a base in neighboring Afghanistan.

Rezvon Sadirov, once a senior opposition leader, has split with the main opposition. His force is based in an area controlled by Masoud.

On Saturday, Russian correspondents said by telephone that a deal had been reached providing for the Tajik government to send helicopters to Afghanistan to bring Rezvon Sadirov's followers home.

Museum cancels talk on Jewish revenge against Germans

By DEB RIECHMANN

WASHINGTON (AP) — A writer invited to discuss his contention that Jews beat and killed Germans in prison camps at the end of World War II had the lecture canceled by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. But he still plans to deliver the speech this week in Washington.

When the museum withdrew its invitation, the journalist, John Sack, rented a room at the National Press Club where he was scheduled to speak last Thursday.

"I feel strongly that Jews must speak out against genocide even when it's committed by Jews," said Sack, a 66-year-old Jew from New York City.

Sack, author of the book *An Eye For An Eye: The Untold Story of Jewish Revenge Against Germans in 1945*, was supposed to speak at the museum December 5. That lecture was postponed to February 13. Then last week he learned his

speech had been canceled.

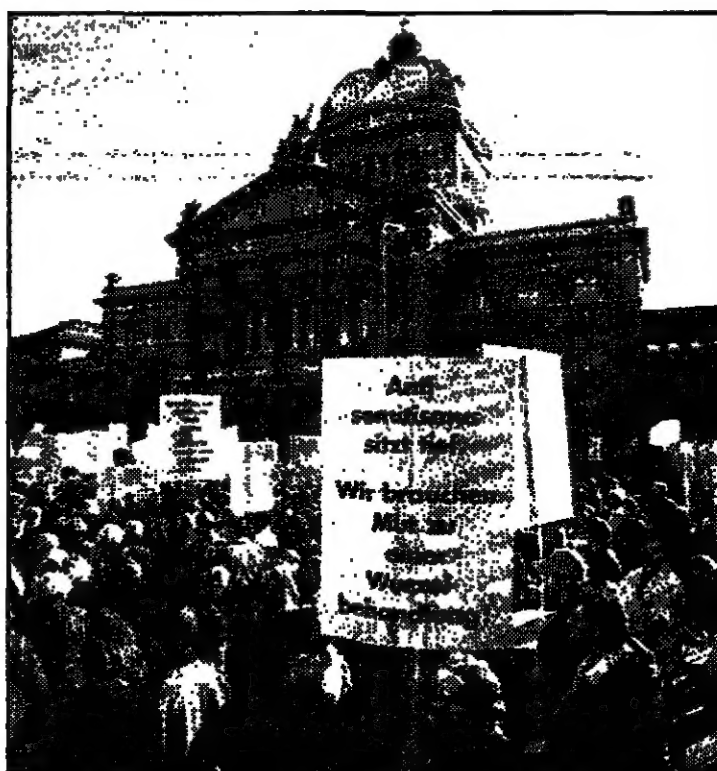
Mary Morrison, a spokeswoman for the museum, said Sack's invitation was never cleared by the director, Walter Reich, but had been extended by an employee of the museum's research institute.

"This is something that is not an appropriate program for our museum," Morrison said. "After the lecture was rescheduled and the calendar went out again, the director did get a few calls from historians about it." But she said the cancellation was not prompted by outside pressure.

Sack contends in his book that 60,000 to 80,000 ethnic Germans died from 1945 to 1948 at internment camps Soviet dictator Josef Stalin set up through the Polish Communist government's Office of State Security, whose operators included many Jews.

"Yes, the Holocaust happened, the Germans killed Jews, but a second atrocity happened that the Jews who committed it covered up: one where the Jews killed Germans," Sack wrote.

"God knows the Jews were provoked, but in 1945, they killed a great number of Germans — not Nazis, not Hitler's trigger men, but German civilians, German men, women, children, babies."



Some 5,000 members of Swiss churches and Christian groups gather in front of the government building in Bern on Saturday, with banners urging quick compensation of Holocaust victims who moved their money into Switzerland for safekeeping. The banner reads: Antisemitism runs deep. We need courage for a root-treatment. (Reuters)

DIAMONDS

Continued from Page 1

looted diamonds were moved to neutral countries, mainly Switzerland and Spain, the document said.

It listed the names of some of the Germans involved in the diamond transactions, one of whom was still in Switzerland in 1948. The Belgian government then asked the Americans for help in recovering the stones.

It is not clear whether the Americans ever provided official help in recovering the diamonds. Most of the attention had focused on Belgian gold, which had traveled an adventurous route trying to stay ahead of the Reich.

Belgium got its 240 tons of gold to France, which then shipped it to Dakar in West Africa before Paris fell. The Vichy government then helped return the gold to Europe, shipping it on African riverboats, then by camel through the Sahara to Algiers, where it was flown to Marseilles, then trucked to Berlin.

Some of the gold later found its way to Switzerland. When the Swiss admitted in 1946 that they had bought Nazi gold, it was thought to have been the Belgian gold.

Brussels ultimately got restitution for part of the gold, but the Jews of Antwerp were not compensated for the diamonds, the Centrale official said.

"A lot of people think the Jewish community is rich and

doesn't need it," said the Centrale official in Antwerp, which was the diamond capital of the world before the war. However, he said, the community now is in dire straits.

The Belgium Jews have been slighted in previous reparation and restitution efforts. They were ineligible for direct compensation from West Germany. Instead, the German government paid DM 80 million to the government of Belgium under a 1961 treaty that was to "compensate Belgian citizens who suffered from the Nazi regime."

However, Belgium distributed those funds to political prisoners, the Centrale official said, adding: "All the Jews who were persecuted because they were Jews, they got nothing."

TALKS

Continued from Page 1

lowing categories: petroleum excise taxes; VAT; customs; income taxes; and health fees.

It is estimated that the money transferred to PA accounts in Gaza in 1995 included NIS 580 million in VAT taxes; approximately NIS 50 million in customs taxes; approximately NIS 30 million in health fees; and approximately NIS 15 million in income taxes.

During 1995, an estimated NIS 101 million were transferred by the Finance Ministry to the PA, but were deposited in a Tel Aviv Bank Leumi account controlled by Arafat.

Kicking off the talks next

Sunday will be Foreign Minister David Levy and Arafat top deputy Mahmoud Abbas, who head the ongoing liaison committee. Both participated in last night's Erez meeting. Arafat also was accompanied by Hebron negotiator Saeb Erekat and preventive security chiefs Jibril Rajoub and Mohammed Dahlan.

Israeli officials termed last night's meeting "constructive" and "very upbeat" and were pleased to hear their Palestinian counterparts saying they believe "the chemistry between the leaders is improving."

Among the other issues raised last night was Netanyahu's insistence that the PA close any institutions operating in Jerusalem in contravention of the Oslo accords. The premier also called

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السلامة العامة

Don't dress for Shakespeare

By HELEN KAYE

Jane Shakespeare plays sophisticated Jacqueline in the West End production, and Suzanne, the prettiest, cordon-bleu cook, in the touring production of *Don't Dress for Dinner* that starts the first of eight performances on February 22 at Beit Habayal in Tel Aviv.

Robin Hawdon did the adaptation of French playwright Marc Camoletti's hit farce that ran in Paris for two years and is still going strong in London after six.

It's the story of what happens to a romantic candlelight dinner when Suzanne pretends to be Suzanne (Julie Fox), who's actually Bernard's (Richard Mullins) mistress but because Robert (Neil Patrick) wants to save his friend's marriage to Jacqueline (Claire Fisher), whose lover he is, he pretends that Suzanne is his mistress.

Got that? No? Never mind. We're still missing Suzanne's husband, George (Patrick Kearns) who doesn't at all approve of what he thinks is going on. It all comes right by the final curtain which is what farces are supposed to do, and then life echoes comedy because Shakespeare and Kearns have been man and wife since last June.

"I met Patrick when I graduated college to join a children's theater company," says Shakespeare, 30, over the phone from her London home, "and we've been together since. It's an asset working with my husband." They did another couples play called *Double Act* in Nottingham last summer walking "off the plane and into rehearsal. We learned our lines on our honeymoon."

Don't Dress for Dinner has been Shakespeare's mascot. "It's a fun piece from start to finish." She started out as understudy for the '94 summer season of the play on the island of Jersey. (George did the men.) In '95 she understudied the West End production, and in true understudy tradition, went on for the star when she was out sick for two weeks.

In between times she's done another farce in Nottingham called *Sailor Beware*, and a third in Edinburgh called *The Secretary Bird*. And when stage jobs don't happen "I train people in telemarketing. It brings in good money."

She was born in Warwickshire which is Shakespeare country. Is there a connection? She doesn't know, but "I'm a fan of the name."

As well as Tel Aviv, *Don't Dress for Dinner* will play in Jerusalem, Haifa, Kfar Sava, Rehovot and Netanya.



Jane Shakespeare says 'it's an asset' being married to her co-star Patrick Kearns.

MOVIE REVIEW

A calmer sutra

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Mira Nair's *Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love* takes its title from Vatsyayana's third-century Sanskrit erotic treatise, its vibrant color scheme from a Great Moghul miniature and its dialogue from an airport paperback. As the movie begins to take shape, this bizarre combination seems poised to offer some good, trashy fun.

Set at an opulent 16th-century Indian court, the film tells the story of the rivalry between a beautiful servant girl, Mia (Indira Varma), and a no-less-beautiful princess, Tara (Sarita Choudhury). As Tara learns to wear gorgeous silks and jewels, and to strike such poses as "churning curds" and "twining of a creeper," Mia looks on enviously.

KAMA SUTRA, A TALE OF LOVE

Directed by Mira Nair. Screenplay by Nair and Helen Mirra. Hebrew title: *Kama Sutra*. 117 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.

With Indira Varma, Sarita Choudhury, Rekha, Naveen Andrews and Ramon Tikaram.

The two girls do study dance together, and it's clear from the outset that the princess is not nearly as expressive with her eyes, ankles and belly button as is the humble maid.

Tara's fiancé, King Raj Singh (Naveen Andrews), certainly notices the difference: the first time he meets his bride-to-be he can't help but oggle the servant at his side. In a wonderful mood on the eve of Tara's wedding, Mia slips into the king's bedchamber and the two churn the curds passionately. Once her evil deeds are discovered, Mia is cast out of the palace, befriends and beds a suitor sculptor, Jai (Ramon Tikaram), becomes the king's favorite courtesan, struggles with furious Tara, and risks it all to save the life of her one true love.

Almost as luscious-looking as it is absurd, *Kama Sutra* is a film profoundly at odds with itself. On the one hand, Nair and co-writer Helena Kriel seem to understand that they're trafficking in romantic kitsch of the first order. The plot is



Raj Singh (Naveen Andrews) is attracted to his future queen's maid, Mia (Indira Varma).

pure bodice-ripping (or midriff-bearing) fantasy, and the script is filled with purple prose like "My Lotus Woman! I found her! I lust her!" The hibiscus-flower-and-satin-throw-pillow atmospherics, meanwhile, are lifted straight from an old Hollywood costume "Eastern" like *The Garden of Allah* or *Kismet*.

On the other hand, the filmmakers soon indicate that they mean this outlandish scenario quite seriously, and this piety is quite draining the film of the camp aspect that might have made it entertaining. *Kama Sutra* comes from an earnest desire to create a feminist, feminist reading of the ancient book of love. But the only notable difference between an exoticizing Victorian treatment of this subject and Nair's politically correct one is the touchy-feely lingo her characters use, and the improbably "liberated" way they act. "I was afraid of losing control," explains Jai. "You hurt me," Mia tells him. They eventually work through their problems, and Mia learns that in order to be happy she must take charge of her own body.

Nice thoughts, surely, but they come attached here to an oppressive prescriptive sense (it's not the anachronism that grates, so much as the tone) and a rhythm that's self-indulgently slow. *Kama Sutra* is far too tasteful to work as trash; the film will also disappoint those in search of porn. The sex scenes are surprisingly tame, even silly. Jai's wiggle at the point of climax, a virgin writhes on a bed of rose petals, and the film critic checks her watch.

The Bible's 'Eternal Triangle'

By HELEN KAYE

Can't you just imagine the banner headline if there'd been tabloids 3,000 years ago?

"Get Rid of Her!" shrieks patriarch's wife. And in only slightly smaller type: Abraham banishes Hagar.

The very first eternal triangle, except that as the first it wasn't eternal. That came afterwards. Or do Adam, Eve, and the serpent count?

Oh, never mind! Jerusalem Stage Productions (JSP) presents the *Eternal Triangle*, a biblical musical comedy adapted and directed by Zippora Peled from Aviva Galli's play. It's an affectionate retelling of the Abraham/Sarah/Hagar story with a very definite, though light-handed, link to the present.

"Both the Arabs and the Jews claim Abraham as the father of their nation," says Peled, and Hagar, in song, "warns Abraham to think of the consequences of his action."

Peled wrote the script, but when it came to the songs and the music, everybody pitched in. Melvyn Millman (Abraham) was one of the lyricists. Music came from Don Slovin (the other Abraham), with singer/songwriter Dafna Eylat contributing another of the songs, "and we got music for two more of the songs



Director Zippora Peled: I'm just the understudy.

from the friend of a friend who lives in Australia," says Peled triumphantly.

She's the founding artistic director of JSP, which is eight years old.

She also sews all the costumes, takes the pictures, designs and executes the program and sells the tickets, saying matter of factly "you know how it is in amateur theater - everybody wants to be onstage."

She has been on stage for most of her life.

Born in Poland 75 years ago, Peled grew up in the US and immigrated in 1950 with her husband and children, one of whom is actress Joanna Peled. Zippora Peled was one of the first students at the Tel Aviv University theater department, studying there with Peter Fry. In 1961, she played Katherine to Topol's Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, the Haifa Theater's inaugural production.

She worked at Habimah and at the Beersheba Theater where she played roles such as the mother in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, and the title role in *The House of Bernarda Alba*. JSP is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream and the theater has done some 20 shows.

The most recent production is the romantic comedy *Two on the Rocks*, also by Peled.

She doesn't like to talk about herself, this most energetic of grandmothers. "Talk about the cast," she says.

All right! Each role is double cast, so the other Abraham is Hanan Rutstein, the Hagar is Liat Ron and Rivka Hirsch and the Sarah, Rahel Jaskow and Peled, who hastens to add "I'm just the understudy."

The Eternal Triangle is at the Khan Theater, Jerusalem, from tonight.

Countertenor attack

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Following the recent recital of German countertenor Andreas Scholl in Tel Aviv, this week three more countertenors and one boy soprano are due to sing in early-music concerts.

French countertenor Gerard Lesne was raised in the outskirts of Paris and began his musical life as a rock musician. But crossing over to classical music did not mean a negation of his roots. Indeed he recently recorded a new rock album.

Lesne explains that he did not used to utilize his countertenor voice "because I simply did not know how."

In 1985, Lesne founded Il Seminario Musicale, an ensemble

focusing on the performance of early music and baroque music. "Since the inauguration of Il Seminario I sing first and foremost Italian baroque music. I love Italian music and it suits my voice."

In its current Israeli concerts (Thursday at Noga in Jaffa and Saturday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem), Il Seminario Musicale and Gerard Lesne perform both Italian and French baroque music.

ENGLAND'S I Fagiolini ensemble comprises various singers including two countertenors, Robert Hollingworth, the ensemble's director, and Richard Wyn Roberts. This ensemble has traditionally focused on the Renaissance period.

NEWS

of the muse

Canceling Israel

It has been a while since artistic organizations canceled signed contracts for appearances in Israel for political reasons. But England's Hilliard Ensemble, which was to perform at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on February 11, canceled its visit citing political reasons and worries for its members' safety. The British Council, which partially sponsored the concert, was asked to persuade this refined vocal quartet to change its mind but to no avail. The British vocal ensemble I Fagiolini, which specializes in music from the European courts of the 15th and 16th century, will replace the Hilliard, performing its special program *All The King's Men*.

Michael Ajzenstadt

A big winner

The Jerusalem Quartet, a young group whose members work within the auspices of the Jerusalem Music Center, won two prizes at the prestigious Franz Schubert and the Music of the 20th Century Competition in Graz, Austria, last week.

In its first-ever competition, this foursome won both the first prize (\$22,000) and a special prize for best interpretation of 20th-century music (\$5,500).

The prize money will be divided between the four members of the quartet, violinists Alexander Pavlovsky and Sergei Bressler, violist Amihai Gross and cellist Kyril Zlotnikov. The quartet's members are all 18 years old and will join the army, as musicians, in March.

Michael Ajzenstadt



The Jerusalem Quartet

Arts and the government

Representatives from all the country's major arts institutions and organizations met in the Prime Minister's Office recently to discuss "and define what we're doing culturally for the next decade," as the PM put it.

Cameri general manager Noam Semel suggested the establishment of a National Endowment for the Arts, and a substantial tax break for corporate sponsors of the arts.

This year's arts budget is NIS 285 million, an increase of NIS 15 million over last year, but not enough to pass on the promised 10% COL increase across the board, said Arts and Culture authority head Dr. David Alexander, who chaired the meeting. Education and Culture Minister Ze'evulun Hammer said that he hopes to increase the 1998 arts budget by NIS 150m.

Helen Kaye

Banking on royalties

Treasury officials must be laughing all the way to the bank as royalties from the three Channel 2 franchises roll in at NIS 26.5 million for 1996 as opposed to NIS 5.9m. in 1995. The law requires an 8% royalty fee monthly from Keshet, Reshet and Tel-Ad.

Helen Kaye

Roseanne the wicked witch

Television star Roseanne will make her live stage debut from May 7 to June 1 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

In what some critics are already hailing as a brilliant piece of casting, she is to play the Wicked Witch of the West in a theatrical version of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Roseanne's ex-husband Tom Arnold certainly has reason to regard the sitcom star as witch-like. Following their divorce, Roseanne was reported as saying "I'm only upset that I'm not a widow."

(It is not known whether she's been able to remove the tattoo which reads "Property of Tom Arnold" from her upper thigh.)

Roseanne Barr

Tom Gross

The force is still with 'Star Wars'

The newly released version of the 1977 science-fiction classic *Star Wars* last week stunned movie execs and film critics alike when it grossed over \$35 million in its first weekend at the US box office.

"I am flabbergasted, just flabbergasted," director George Lucas told *The New York Times*. "It's a 20-year-old movie. I just didn't expect this to happen."

The success of the film, titled *Star Wars Special Edition*, seems largely a case of nostalgic parents - many dressed as Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader and other characters from the film - bringing their children to see it.

Tom Gross

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IN HEBREW-
HEAR IT
IN ENGLISH!

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Two wrongs

On Friday the cabinet decided to release all 23 women Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, as agreed to in the Oslo Accords. The prisoner release was supposed to have taken place upon signature of Oslo in 1995, but President Ezer Weizman refused at that time to pardon at least two of the prisoners, who were convicted of murdering Israelis. As well as agreeing to this release, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi have asked Weizman to "consider the commuting of sentences of Jewish prisoners" convicted of killing Arabs.

"Where is justice in the world?" asks the mother of David Manos, an Israeli who was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in 1984. Lania Marouf, one of the prisoners to be released, has been serving a life sentence for participating in the attack. The blood of the victims "cries out from the ground," as God said to Cain, who had just murdered his brother Abel. The pain of the victims' families can only be magnified by the fact that the Palestinians made the release of these prisoners a cardinal demand, precisely because they consider them to be heroes.

Israel has never before released Palestinians with "Jewish blood on their hands" as part of a peace agreement. In 1985, Israel released 1,150 prisoners, including 167 involved in attacks that killed Israelis, in exchange for three captured Israeli soldiers. Prime minister Yitzhak Rabin argued at the time that the lives of Israeli soldiers were more important than holding prisoners — though that prisoner release may have cost more lives in subsequent terrorist attacks than it saved.

Prisoner releases obviously help excuse terrorism by acting as if it were a legitimate form of "armed struggle." Presumably, the Palestinians no longer consider the deliberate killing of random, innocent civilians to be heroic, though just one month ago Bir Zeit students burned an Israeli bus in effigy in celebration of previous suicide bombings. No action was taken against this treatment of the first order, nor was it condemned by Palestinian officials.

If there can be any legitimacy in the notion of such prisoner releases, it would be in accord with the idea that terrorism is now a thing of the past. After all, how can Israel regard some former terrorists warmly as negotiating partners, while others remain in jail? This logic works, however, only if terrorism has not only been renounced, but ceases to be heroic.

One sure way of signaling that terrorism is no longer condoned is for the Palestinian Authority to change its attitude regarding the transfer of Palestinian terrorists to Israel, as required by the Oslo Accords. The Palestinians have made a mockery of this provision of the agreement, in

that some of those whose extradition Israel has requested for trial are reportedly serving in the Palestinian Police. Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub has said that no Palestinian will ever be transferred to Israel, Oslo notwithstanding.

In this supposed new era of reciprocity, Israel needs to demand that the Palestinians put teeth into the Oslo provisions regarding extradition. It is true that those provisions contain a major loophole, namely that the Palestinians can fulfill the agreement by putting a terrorist suspect on trial, even if the trial is a cursory one. But if the Palestinian terrorists were to receive serious trials and jail sentences from Palestinian courts, that would accomplish the same purpose.

The problem is that the Palestinians have not fully made the transition from a society that supports terrorism and adulates terrorists, to one that is morally repulsed by the use of terrorism as a political tool.

There is no moral difference between Jewish and Arab terrorism. There is a difference in how the two societies react to terrorism. In Israel, terrorism has minuscule public and no official support, while in Palestinian society it enjoys substantial popular understanding, and tactical, rather than principled, opposition from official quarters.

By suggesting that Jewish terrorists should be released, Israel's government is pandering to the small minority that is sympathetic toward Jewish murderers. This is disappointing precisely because it undermines the principled Israeli position, and popular consensus, against terrorism.

Yes, it is tempting to argue, as did MK Michael Kleiner when he submitted a petition to President Weizman for the release of Jewish prisoners: "There is no reason for a terrorist to be released when the person who reacted to his attack with an act of revenge remains in prison." At some level it does not seem right for Palestinian terrorists to be set free while Jewish terrorists sit in jail. But for Israel to release Jewish terrorists would be to contribute to the very thing that Israel is trying to stamp out once and for all: the sanitization of terrorism as a political tool.

Already, the Jewish terrorism of Baruch Goldstein and Noam Friedman has greatly undermined the Israeli claim to moral superiority on this issue. If Israel were to release Jewish terrorists, the government itself would be dealing a further blow to the effort to delegitimize terrorism.

If Israel is looking to increase justice and fight terrorism, it should insist on Palestinian extradition, not soften its stand toward violent Jewish extremists. Releasing Jewish murderers serves neither justice nor reciprocity.

To better ways

EMANUEL FELDMAN

"When there comes a time of affliction, the community must cry out [to God]... and everyone must realize that because of their own misdeeds has this befallen them.... [This] will cause such afflictions to be removed...."

"But if they do not cry out, but say that what happened to us was simply an ordinary accident, this is the way of callousness: it convinces them to hold fast to their wrongful ways, and leads to further affliction." — Mishneh Torah (Laws of Fasting 1:2)

But there is a different kind of commission of inquiry — a personal, spiritual one. This kind of inquiry is much more difficult; but it is no less necessary. For in the spiritual realm we are all fully interconnected, as human beings and as Jews.

"Every man's death diminishes me," said John Donne, "for I am part of mankind." He continues with the lines that have become famous: "Ask not for whom the bell tolls? It tolls for thee."

IN OUR personal, spiritual commission of inquiry, each individual becomes his or her own expert, who must conduct a thorough investigation based on honesty and integrity.

Here the questions are far more painful: If there is an invisible thread connecting my actions with my land, my fellow Jews, and my God, shouldn't something now change in my life as a result of this tragedy? Can my spiritual flight plan remain the same?

My goals and the means of achieving them — perhaps these need reevaluating. Perhaps there has been human error in my relationship with my fellow human beings and in my connectedness with my people that requires re-justifying.

If I consider myself secular, perhaps I should begin reevaluating my relationship to my heritage. Am I more influenced by the ways of the West than by my own millennial tradition?

If I consider myself religious, does my everyday behavior sanctify the name of God or profane it? Is my service of my Creator full-hearted? And what about my relationship to other Jews? Is it filled with understanding and kindness, or with hostility and contempt?

And if I am neither secular nor religious, not sure who I really am as a Jew, perhaps I could begin

These words of Maimonides keep throbbing in my mind. Seventy-three young lives have been snuffed out, 73 bodies have been laid to rest. We, the liv-

After such a tragedy it would be callous of us not to reexamine our lives

ing, mourn, weep, and wonder.

The commission of inquiry will inquire. It will determine that the accident was caused by mechanical failure, or human error, or fatigue, or vertigo. It will make recommendations about changes in procedure, about improving equipment.

The report will be greeted with pain and anguish. There may be resignations, there will certainly be adjustments in flight plans, and there will be debates about Lebanon. But our lives — though not the 73 families — will probably go on as before. Accidents, after all, do happen.

On the physical level, commissions of inquiry are relatively easy to convene. Gather respected experts, people whose integrity is beyond reproach, and let them ask the questions, arrive at the conclusions, make the recommendations.

Hints of crime and punishment

MICHAEL BOYDEN

What exactly did the Ashkenazi and Sephardi chief rabbis mean when they proclaimed a fast on the day the government declared as one of national mourning for the soldiers who died in last week's tragedy?

Fasting generally has no place in Jewish mourning rituals. Fasting is not an expression of mourning, but chiefly of penitence. It's what we do on Yom Kippur, after all.

The only conclusion one can draw is that our spiritual leaders decided that the helicopter crash was in some measure a punishment for our sins.

Such a theological conclusion is not only doubtful, it is insulting. It recalls Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz's assertion that the schoolchildren who were killed when a train and a school bus collided near Moshav Habonim in 1985 died because of Sabbath desecration in Petah Tikva, which was where the children came from.

Whence do these rabbis derive either the authority or the knowledge to draw such conclusions? Certainly not from the Almighty. They would do better to keep such thoughts to themselves, instead of casting aspersions on the Israeli public.

A quiver of stinging verbal arrows

ADAM WINSTON

Do haredim have an image problem? And if so, why?

Since haredim don't mix much socially with secular Jews, where would any negative perception come from?

A recent issue of *Ha'ayin Hashvi'i*, a journal published by the Israeli Institute for Democracy, included an article on media hostility toward the haredi public. This may be the first time an investigative article of this kind has appeared in a secular magazine.

Amos Goren, director of Israel Radio's Hebrew program for new immigrants, writes about the verbal tools employed to deal with the haredi community. The use of the term "black" in its most pejorative sense is a favorite.

He cites several examples: "black religious coercion," "the black clerical forces of Mea Shearim," "black strike again," "black ants," "black brigades," "black ravens," and "the darkness of the Middle Ages."

Goren notes another common theme — the implication that religious Jews, particularly haredim, are not quite sane.

For example, "In recent years, Emek Refaim has become the sanest and most secular street in Jerusalem," (Israel Radio, November 26, 1993). Or, "One of the last remnants of sanity and tolerance in the city of excommunication and controversy, Bnei Brak, has now been defeated," (*Yedioth Aharonot*, April 20, 1995).

And, "Sane Israeli citizens regard the royal reception Saunar

Over the past few days, Israel's politicians have told us repeatedly that the helicopter accident was a tragedy for the entire nation. And, indeed, among the soldiers who died there were Sephardim and Ashkenazim, Jews and Druze, sabras and immigrants, wealthy and poor.

All of us were represented among the dead. Or were we?

No rabbi has a hot line to God. No one can say that the accident was a result of sin

One sector was not to be found among the victims: those who prefer to "sacrifice themselves to Torah study" rather than put their lives at risk in the defense of the state.

This sector enjoys all the benefits of Jewish sovereignty without paying the price. How long will we allow these people to determine our fate at the ballot box when they themselves do not suffer the consequences of the outcome?

The time has come to insist that only those who are prepared to

play their part in defending the nation have the right to vote at election time. Any other situation is unacceptable.

One should not be able to enjoy rights without accepting obligations.

ECCLESIASTES teaches that "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a

time to dance." When a rabbinic sage dies, the haredim take to the streets in their hordes to accompany their leader on his last journey. Indeed, it is considered a great *mitzva* to accompany the dead.

I happened to be at the cemetery at Givat Shaul last Friday when two of the victims of the helicopter accident were buried. The haredim were conspicuous in their absence.

I heard that they read Psalms in their yeshivot and study houses, and held a prayer session at the Western Wall; but physically they weren't there with us.

Why didn't they take the opportunity, like other Israelis, to identify with the families of the victims and fulfill the great *mitzva* of accompanying the dead? I hate to conclude it, but perhaps our grief is not theirs.

At Givat Shaul I saw just two haredi Jews, clasping charity boxes in their hands.

"Give *zedaka*," they urged us, "so that such a tragedy doesn't befall you and your family in the future." A day of national mourning provides yet another opportunity to fill the coffers.

As for our politicians, they grieve — but selectively, it seems.

A father whose son, a paratrooper, fell in battle in Lebanon just three years ago, told me that not a single politician, MK or mayor bothered to attend his son's funeral.

But then, it wasn't a time of national mourning, and there weren't any microphones, reporters or cameras around.

It's not only beggars who make capital out of times such as these.

The writer, a rabbi in Ra'anana, lost his son in Lebanon three-and-half years ago.

Dry Bones



thinking seriously about such things.

I am not suggesting that any group blame or accuse any other; only that we look inward, at ourselves.

We keep hearing that the 73 shall not have died in vain; their deaths can have eternal meaning if they become the catalyst for spiritual inquiry.

No one can claim entree to the mind of God, no one can claim to know why such tragedies occur.

But one fact is clear: Life cannot, ought not, to go on as before. We need to ask honest questions of ourselves, and arrive at honest answers.

Maimonides suggests that it

would be callous to ignore such events, continuing (once the shock wears off) as if nothing had happened. Dare we be callous after a tragedy like last week's?

One of the boys who died bore my Hebrew name, Menachem Feldman, a fact that continues to burn my soul.

Each of those young men gave his life for all our sakes. Each bears the name of each one of us. This knowledge must surely lead us to better our ways.

The writer, who now lives in Israel, was a rabbi in Atlanta, Georgia, and is editor of *Tradition* magazine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

Sir — Your excellent newspaper published on Friday an interesting article by David Makovsky ("Rethinking Southern Lebanon") which mentioned France several times, not always accurately I must say. I would like to offer some remarks in this respect.

Last week's tragedy, which saw all friends of Israel around the world (including MM. Chirac, Juppe and de Charette) share Israel's grief on the death of so many brave young men, has inevitably reopened the debate about Israel's presence in southern Lebanon, which is actually a debate about Israel's security on its northern border.

One valuable step in the direction of enhancing this security was the creation, last summer, under French and American co-chairmanship, of the Monitoring Group, which is meant to prevent further damage to civilian populations on both sides of the border. The existence of this group, which has been meeting repeatedly in Nakura, Lebanon, since last August to consider incidents of various kinds, has resulted in the fact that there have been no civilian losses during that last six months on either side. To the group's activity, rather than to the "fear of massive retaliation by Israel," must be ascribed the almost total disappearance of

rockets over Galilee; let us hope it will remain that way.

But the fighting goes on within the so-called "security zone" between IDF and Hizbullah, with casualties on both sides and no end in sight. This is where the need for negotiation between Israel and Lebanon and Syria is felt. Such negotiation, as Mr. Makovsky rightly points out, cannot ignore the Golan issue. Here, again, what is really at stake? The security of Israel. The aim is to prevent the Golan Heights from again threatening this country. To my knowledge this aim, together with the more general objective of creating a peaceful and wide-ranging relationship between Israel and Syria, was one of the topics of the Israeli-Syrian discussions at Wye Plantation, Maryland, a year ago. One can only regret that these negotiations were stopped abruptly (in the wake of the tragic bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv) since they obviously needed a lot more time to reach some kind of agreement.

Such an agreement is not out of reach. Its essential ingredient is certainly the conviction, in Syria as in Israel, that the partner is sincerely looking for peace. This is where countries friendly to Israel and having good contacts with Syria, such as France and the

United States, or the special envoy of the European Union, Ambassador Moratinos, can play the role: they are indeed already doing the "basic groundwork" Mr. Makovsky asks for, assessing the differences of opinion and working to bring the parties back to the negotiating table.

Everybody's aim is the departure from Lebanon of all foreign troops, in the spirit of UN Resolution 425. The withdrawal of the IDF would constitute a welcome first step. It would not happen in a vacuum. The Lebanese army would deploy itself all the way to Lebanon's southern border, possibly with the assistance of French observers. Hizbullah would thereafter content itself with its political activity (it is already represented in the Lebanese Parliament). That would obviously entail an understanding with Syria which would include the restitution of the Golan and the necessary security arrangements linked to it.

On this point, I do differ from Mr. Makovsky: there is no other option for Israel than "a negotiated deal with Syria," and the sooner the better.

JEAN-NOEL DE BOUILLANE
DE LACOSTE
Ambassador of France to Israel
Tel Aviv.

LIVING ABROAD

Sir — From Ann Hutchings's article of February 4, "Sick & tired," I can only deduce that Ms. Hutchings has never lived in a foreign country before. While I agree with her assessment that the Interior Ministry is trying to limit the number of non-Jews living in Israel (because missionaries gave the whole lot a bad name), her problems in obtaining work permits have absolutely nothing to do with her origins.

My older brother lived in France for years and years and was married to a Frenchwoman. Although

he had a profitable business which was bringing foreign currency into France, one day he was denied a renewal of his *carte de séjour* and thus the ability to work legally. No reason was given. When I wanted to bring my adopted daughter into the US, even as a tourist, I was stymied by the functionaries because the US government is not required to allow "dope addicts, ex-convicts and the mentally deficient" into the country. My daughter has Down syndrome. It did not matter that most of my family lived in the US, that I am an American

citizen, that my daughter was only three years old, and that all I wanted to do was to introduce her to my family. I practically had to get an act of Congress to allow us in.

My point is that although Ms. Hutchings may have come here "with love for Israel" in her heart, she also came with misconceptions about the universal struggle against bureaucrats and functionaries. It is no worse here than it is elsewhere!

MARTHA LEV-ZION
Omer.

Other Sho
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Villains or Victim
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إسرائيل

Sunday, February 9, 1997

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The Other Shoe

Tried and Tried Again, With a Vengeance

By JAN ROFFMAN

OK, maybe O. J. is half-guilty. What else is a person supposed to conclude? One unanimous jury said he was not guilty. But last week, a second jury, also unanimous, said in essence that he was.

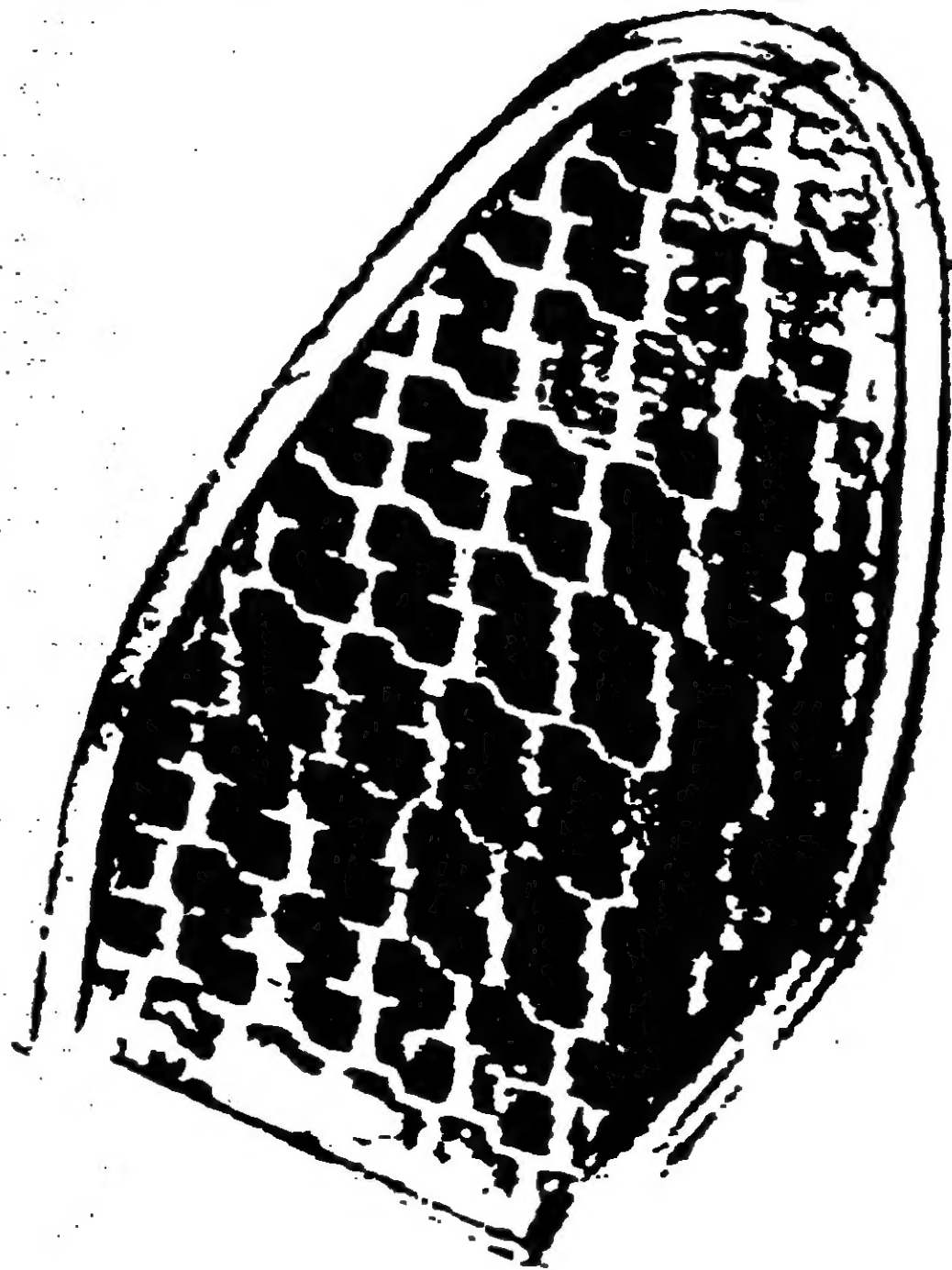
Welcome to the mixed messages of Justice Redux, the era of sequels, remakes and rematches. Last year brought Menendez II and Goetz II; 1997 is off to a fast start with O. J. II, and Crown Heights II, in which the jury resumes deliberations tomorrow. Probably coming to newsstands this spring: Alex Kelly II.

Legally, questions about whether these second go-round trials can proceed have long been settled. But there are social costs attached to going at it again, including a public queasiness over whether — or when — it's the right thing to do. When one man on the street was approached by a television reporter in the first raw moments following the wrongful-death verdict against O. J. Simpson, his brow furrowed in confusion. Why, he asked, did O. J. have to pay when a jury had already acquitted him?

Final, Sort Of

The simple answer, beyond the textbook explanations about the difference between criminal and civil trials, is that the victims' families, not to mention millions of Americans, would just not accept the first verdict. That's a modern, rather remarkable notion, given the gravitas with which the finality of a jury verdict, particularly an acquittal, has traditionally been viewed. But increasingly, the public — and not just the victims or aggrieved communities, like the Hasidic Jews of Crown Heights — is insisting: if at first you don't succeed, try, try him again. No justice, no end to litigation.

Some believe that these second bites are all to the good, particularly in high-profile cases, which are never just about answers to the did-he-or-didn't-he question. To the public, the Simpson trials were also about race and racism, celebrity and wealth, domestic violence. "These separate trials put the legal system in the best light," said Joseph Sanders, a sociologist and law professor at



But Richard Lempert, a sociologist at the University of Michigan, said the cost of not retrying some cases could also be intolerable. If the second Simpson trial had not taken place, he said, "telling a nation that you can get away with murder is too high a price to pay for telling the police that you'd better get your act together."

One of the most powerful benefits of O. J. II, and its less notorious predecessor, Goetz II — the civil suit by a young man left paralyzed by the Manhattan subway gunman Bernhard H. Goetz, who was acquitted in 1987 of attempted murder charges — was the full-throated voice these trials gave to survivors, who are otherwise bit players in state criminal trials.

Using the civil court, the families of Ronald Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson went mano a mano with Mr. Simpson, forcing him to testify, in courtroom face-offs that had something of a duel-at-dawn immediacy.

Some worry that courts will be increasingly used as

It isn't double jeopardy. But whether it's a good idea is even more complicated.

the legal analogue to buying a gun and doing a Charles Bronson. But George P. Fletcher, a law professor at Columbia University, approves of the civil retrial as an instrument of justice. "The victim becomes the center of the attention, not the police," he said, "and the victim can have more control of the action by choosing the lawyer. There's something beautifully attuned to the American spirit of private initiative and the free market."

The use of civil courts to seek retribution is finding favor. Victims are filing suits for drunken driving, domestic violence and even murder that have first ended in convictions, acquittals, plea bargains, or even decisions by prosecutors not to press charges. Thomas Nelson, a lawyer with the National Victim Center in Arlington, Va., said, "Since the murders of Ron Goldman and Nicole, wrongful-death appeals have risen two-thirds."

Legal scholars are more disturbed by Federal prosecutions that follow acquittals in state court, as in Rodney King II. The Supreme Court has ruled that such prosecutions do not violate the double jeopardy clause of the Constitution, because the state and Federal governments are separate entities.

Crown Heights, Cont.

And so Federal prosecutors are trying Lemrick Nelson Jr. for stabbing a Hasidic Jew named Yankel Rosenbaum during a riot in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn in 1991, under a theory that Mr. Nelson deprived Mr. Rosenbaum of his civil rights by causing him injury — he died hours later — in a public place.

Does anyone really believe that this second prosecution is sufficiently distinct from the state murder charges of which Mr. Nelson was acquitted in 1992?

The use of Federal civil rights laws to prosecute defendants acquitted in state courts dates to the mid-1960's, when Federal prosecutors pursued the murderers of civil rights workers in the South. The Federal prosecutions of Mr. Nelson and a new co-defendant, like that of the police officers in the King case, were pursued under the noble aura of those 1960's precedents.

Certainly the benefit of having a second Rodney King prosecution was substantial. Using Federal resources to articulate a national value — that violent, racist state law enforcement officers should be punished — seemed appropriate. "Some people will say, 'Even though the Federal prosecution was pretextual and problematic, it's a good thing to have because of state incompetence,'" said Mark Kelman, a professor at Stanford Law School.

The Crown Heights prosecution, which was hardly a

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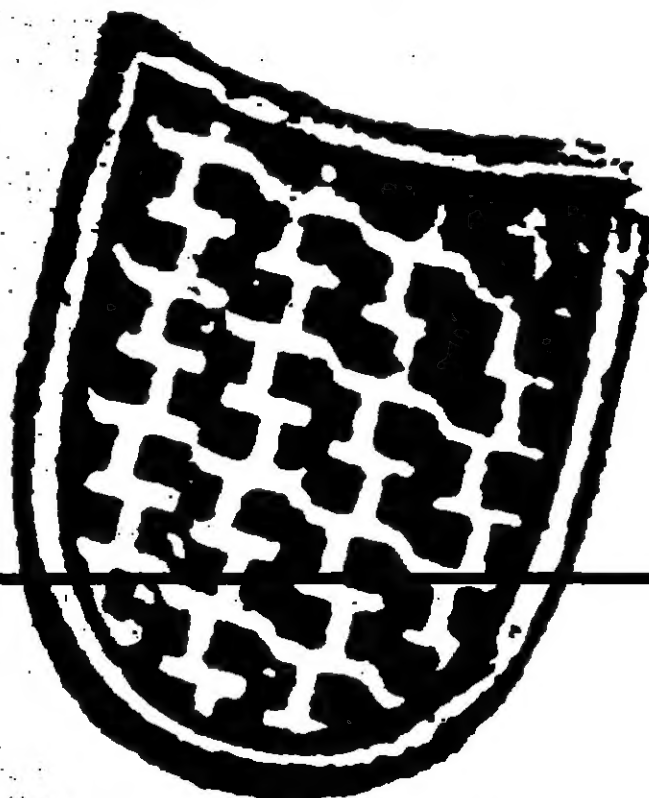
The sequels — Simpson and Nelson, Goetz and more — satisfy a public demand.

the University of Houston. "Black people can say, 'We told you so about these police departments,' and white people can say, 'He didn't' and feel somewhat vindicated. And the legal system itself is pervasively protected by being able to blame juries for whatever happened."

And after the emotional heat of a first trial, the public may be better prepared to live with a second outcome, whatever it is.

Nonetheless, this impulse to undo an unpopular jury decision has its costs. The integrity of a unanimous jury verdict is not to be trifled with in American jurisprudence. But the pursuit of a different result, in a different forum, will forever impugn the original acquittals: Think of the disdain that clings to the jurors in O. J. I, Rodney King I, Goetz I. And consider the pressure on the second juries to reach the "right" verdict.

The defendant pays dearly, of course. Mr. Simpson's multimillion-dollar legal help kept him out of prison but did not protect him from the multimillion-dollar civil suit. The four officers indicted in the Rodney King beating case in Los Angeles, who went into debt to pay defense lawyers for two criminal trials, faced prison twice for the same crime. Their state acquittals were meaningless, a bitter price for the two officers who were again acquitted in the Federal trial, an unbearable one for the two who were finally convicted.



The second time around, O. J. Simpson was found to be a killer. One reason: his Bruno Magli shoes, the kind that left this print at the murder scene.

Villains or Victims?

Money Politics, and Its Suckers

By R. W. APPLE JR.

WASHINGTON

SO who are the bad guys? With American politics awash in money as never before, with lurid tales of contributions from shadowy Asians and Asian-Americans and American-Americans, with disturbing accounts of politically motivated White House kaffeeklatsches where regulators and those they regulate mingle chubbily, it is the plutocrats who are usually portrayed as the villains. As they have since the days when Thomas Nast caricatured the Tweed Ring, most people envisage fat, cigar-smoking lobbyists stuffing wads of cash into politicians' pockets in exchange for legislative favors or jobs or other goodies.

Well, up to a point. A few rich contributors still inevitably win appointments to choice embassies, regardless of Administration; Charles Price got London from Ronald Reagan, and Swannee Hunt got Vienna from Bill Clinton. More can place young relatives or protégés in very junior jobs — interns, assistants to assistants — in Cabinet departments or the White House.

But even that is not guaranteed: explicit promises are made less often these days than they were only a few decades ago. Partly because of changes in campaign finance laws, the rules have changed. A wealthy Democrat, rebuffed in his bid for an important European embassy when President Clinton took office, put it this way: "Nowadays, you give, you ask and you hope."

You need to have a keen political sense. At the moment, for example, the worst thing you could do, if you want a job in the Commerce Department (target of sleaze-busting investigators) is to emphasize your contributions to the Clinton campaign. Or so several big givers have been told this month.

If you give big-time, you can probably count on some psychic income — a Presidential handshake, an invitation to a state dinner, even, of late, an invitation to spend the night in the Lincoln bedroom. Surely, if you give

freely, you can count on a photograph, and many covet them, even at a price. One lobbyist — call him Lobbyist X — is not surprised. "If you're worth \$50 million, and a lot of people are these days," he said, "what the hell difference does it make if it costs you \$125,000 to get a signed color photo of yourself with the President to hang on your wall and impress your friends?"

Most important, you can count on access. If you give to a committee chairman you can count on testifying at his hearing and meeting with him later when he's considering a bill that affects your business. He may

throw in a helpful amendment, or vote with you if he has no strong feelings of his own on the matter. You may be able to get in to see the Vice President or even the President. But here, too, matters get complicated.

The committee chairman may be under countervailing pressures, from the White House or his party leadership or his constituents or even his conscience, and he may vote against you despite the contribution.

"They never promise," said another old Washington

Continued on page 2



Kevin Kallaugher (Baltimore Sun)

Age of Immodesty

I couldn't have done it without me.

By Adam Bryant

2

Albright's Roots

Hidden meaning in a secret heritage.

By Ari L. Goldman

3

God Therapy

Evangelicals now embrace a religious psychotherapy.

By Gustav Niebuhr

3

The Nation

America's Latest Fad: Modesty It's Not.

By ADAM BRYANT

THE current decade is getting on in years, but it still has no satisfying label, like the narcissistic Me Decade of the 1970's or the acquisitive Gimme Decade of the 1980's. Here's a suggestion for the 1990's: the Look-at-Me Decade.

After all, there is enough braggadocio going around to erase modesty from the roll call of virtues — ask not what you can do for your country or what your country can do for you, but whether the country has noticed your efforts lately.

After the Super Bowl last month, Desmond Howard, who ran back a 99-yard kickoff return for a Packers touchdown, implied that he singlehandedly defeated the Patriots. "They had just scored. They had the momentum. Then we have my return, and that was basically the game." (Later in the week, he got around to thanking his teammates for clearing the path.)

New York City police officers are arguing that they are responsible for the recent drop in crime, and that they should be rewarded with a big raise. Andrew Karmen, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said the police deserve about 40 percent of the credit. Not to be outdone, Louis Farrakhan has declared that crime is down because of the Million Man March he organized in 1995.

Unintentional pilots say they are to thank for the airline industry's current record profitability, and not higher fares and fuller planes. They, too, are demanding raises; pilots at American Airlines are even threatening to strike.

In his new book, "Behind the Oval Office" (Random House), Dick Morris, the political tactician, claims his wisdom got President Clinton re-elected.

The Donald Trump Mode

And corporate America, which has spawned many a braggart in the Donald Trump mold, has recently given us Albert J. Dunlap, whose track record of laying off thousands of workers at companies like Sunbeam and Scott Paper has earned him the nickname Chain Saw. He says he is in the same league as Michael Jordan and Bruce Springsteen.

"I'm a superstar in my field," Mr. Dunlap writes in his book, "Mean Business" (Times Business/Random House).

This chorus of boasting may just be a coincidence of recent efforts to win raises or bolster book sales. But many sociologists see a trend, although they do not agree on what seems to be creating a nation of attention-seekers.

Perhaps, some say, it is an outgrowth of the brutal competition in many sports and professions. The path to



Desmond Howard with David Letterman.

the top of the heap is hard, so when you get there, you're entitled to a Tarzan yell or two.

Amihai Etzioni, a professor at George Washington University, said that as a society, America is feeling its oats again after a long period of self-doubt. American-style capitalism is sweeping the world, and this country is no longer lagging behind in areas like car manufacturing. "We are tooting our horn," he said.

President Clinton certainly was in his State of the Union address Tuesday night. "I am proud to say that today, America is once again the most competitive nation and the No. 1 exporter in the world," Mr. Clinton said.

Or perhaps a pervasive sense of insecurity is the cause, said Alan Wolfe, a sociologist at Boston University. Many companies and teams are so well organized and managed that their employees have a nagging feeling they can be easily replaced, he said. The notion has been reinforced by all the corporate downsizings in recent years.

So if Desmond Howard leaves Green Bay for another team, the Packers will simply hire another speedy kick-



Dick Morris, a political strategist, claims that his wisdom got the President Clinton re-elected.

Boasting may mean that Americans are either confident again — or are worried about their jobs.

return specialist. Mr. Howard, a free agent going into contract negotiations, needs to look out for himself. So why not do a celebratory dance after each kick-return to hold the camera's attention a little longer?

"We live in an age of free-agency marriage and jobs," Mr. Wolfe said.

Irving Horowitz, a professor at Rutgers University, said he sees in the bragging nothing less than widespread anomie, a sense of being disconnected from society. So when the chance comes along to grab the omnipresent media microphone and demand some attention, many people are seizing it, whether they have done anything noteworthy or not.

"People magnify things way out of proportion," Mr. Horowitz said.

This magnification applies not just to minor victories. For people who feel they have been victimized, a talk-show audience is waiting to hear how evil forces befell them. Dick Morris, in his canny way, seems to be able to tap this audience for maximum sympathy. After he became a household name because of his widely publicized affair with a call girl, he wrote that his "grave lapse of moral standards" was caused in part by the pain of loneliness during long stays in Washington.

Mr. Morris also writes how he resolved moments of

crisis and confusion at the White House, an Oti-Wan Kenobi to Mr. Clinton's Luke Skywalker. Mr. Morris would regularly rescue the President from the misguided advice of other advisers.

"Fortunately," Mr. Morris writes, "he got the message, and things changed in short order."

But why shouldn't Mr. Morris feel good about himself? After all, the message of the self-esteem movement in education was for students to give themselves a round of applause just for being themselves. In 1990, a California task force said the "promotion of self-esteem" should be a central goal of the state's curriculum. The theory behind the movement, which took hold in the 1980's, was that students who performed well had high self-esteem, so if schools improved the self-esteem of struggling students, their grades would follow.

Just Show Up

Lillian G. Katz, a professor of early childhood education at the University of Illinois, wrote in 1993 that she saw the movement crystallized in a sign in the entrance hall of a school, with pictures of clapping hands surrounding the words, "We Applaud Ourselves." In such a setting, even Woody Allen, who has said that 80 percent of success is just showing up, would be considered a taskmaster.

The tide could be turning, though. Ms. Katz and many other experts in education have sparked something of a backlash against the self-esteem movement, suggesting instead that real accomplishments born of hard work are the fastest route to improved self-esteem. It is a harder route to winning applause, they point out, but maybe winning applause should not be the goal in the first place.

Human Rights for Chimpanzees

The 'Wise Apes' and Their Friends

By DAVID BERREBY

IF someone wants to be treated well, he may try to appeal to "fellow feeling," as Shakespeare's Shylock did. "Hath not a Jew eyes? If you prick us, do we not bleed?" Can't you see, in other words, that we're all alike? It's a strategy that animal rights advocates understand well. Their statements and brochures are full of references to devoted mothers and playful youngsters, not only because mothers have evolved to be devoted and young animals have evolved to be playful, but because such traits ring a bell with human observers.

Sometimes, plausibility is stretched so far that it rips. For example, in a fund-raising letter for a lobster rights group, the actress Mary Tyler Moore said that lobsters "flirt with one another and have even been seen walking claw in claw!" What lobsters apparently do is link up as they travel for safety, which is probably less like a couple walking through the park and more like a patrol on a jungle path, aiming their rifles at . . . well, see how easy it is?

No strain is required, though, to appeal to fellow feeling for the chimpanzee, one of the two species of ape that are more closely related to human beings than they are to gorillas or orangutans. (The bonobo ape is the other.) It is no wonder that the 1,800 captive chimps used for American biomedical research, including 200 that have been infected with the AIDS virus, are now at the center of an ethical debate about their future. What makes the chimp not only a prime subject of biomedical experiments, but also a charismatic zoo animal, TV commercial actor and beneficiary of do-good campaigns, is the chimp's emotional assessability to people.

Indeed, among those who do care for them and interact with them, chimps inspire the same emotions a person would. Rachel Weiss, who was one of the caretakers employed by Yerkes Regional Primate Center in Atlanta to work with H.I.V.-infected chimps, has written a 65-page memoir of her close and intense friendship with Jerom, a chimp that was infected with three different H.I.V. strains in the 1980's and died at Yerkes in early 1996. When she would play with him, she writes, "He smiled, but it always looked as if he was trying to take it back, and when he laughed he bit down on one of his knuckles and turned away so I couldn't see that I'd made him lose his cool."

In his final year of life, Jerom "would sit with his knees drawn up and hold his chin in his hand," Ms. Weiss writes. "He had to manually turn his head in the direction he wished to face. At times he would hang his head and sob quietly; other times he would climb down from his bed board and curl up in a fetal position on the floor in front of me."

Chimps behave like us, and can be read by us,



A model poses as J. Fred Muggs, Kokomo Jr. and Zippy, displaying their esthetic talents, auditioned for a 1963 film.

because, in practically all genetic respects, they are us. In 1999 an English anatomist gave the chimp the species name *Homo Sylvesteris*, or man of the woods, putting the animal in the same genus as humanity. Some modern scientists, including Jared Diamond, a biologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, approach it the other way, arguing that the genus *Homo* is a kind of taxonomical vanity plate, and that, really, there should be three species of chimpanzee: *pan troglodytes*, the common chimp; *pan paniscus*, the bonobo; and *pan sapiens*, "the wise ape" who reads about the others in the newspaper.

Animal Testimony

Fellow feeling, though, can take many forms. If humans are to be kind, merciful and respectful to animals — refraining from cruelty to them or from experimenting on them or from exploiting them in any way — then what is it precisely that fellow feeling should be based upon? What do people share with them?

In medieval and early modern Europe, people treated animals as part of the community, or so we must deduce from court records of caterpillars in Italy excommunicated for eating crops and a bear in the realm of James I of England executed for murdering a child. Christian doctrine required believers to see animals, in the

elegant phrase of the 20th-century British physiologist Sir Charles Sherrington, as "terrestrial furniture provided for man's use during his probation here." But in a village where a cock might be called as a witness in a trial, such doctrine seems to have been counterweighted by a common-sense perception of animals as neighbors and colleagues in the business of life.

Such an attitude shifted after the Enlightenment, when, as Harriet Rivo, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology wrote in "The Animal Estate," her 1987 book about the Victorians and animals, "people systematically appropriated power that had previously been attributed to animals, and animals became significant primarily as the objects of human manipulation."

The Enlightenment view of animals was heavily influenced by René Descartes, who held that animals were automata without minds or real feeling. That machine-like view of animals, though, was not to last. Darwinism gave intellectual structure to the intuition that humans and animals exist in a continuum. And the patient study of animal behavior began to turn up ample evidence of the similarity of animals and human beings. Crows, it has been reported, use tools. And the famous Alex, an African gray parrot at the University of Arizona, speaks a kind of English well enough to ask for a drink of water.

But the argument that people should be kind to animals because they're smart, like people, may soon have to go the way of animal witnesses because there are other entities around now that look smarter than both animals and people.

In her 1996 book, "Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet," Sherry Turkle, a social scientist at M.I.T., writes that powerful modern computers appear to have provoked a new kind of philosophical speculation among young children: here is an object that seems to act and have intelligence, that seems in some ways more like a human than a pet cat.

In the 1970's, when computers were not the smart devices they are today, children said that people were special because they, unlike machines, have emotions and a psyche. But nowadays, Ms. Turkle writes, children stress that only people and animals are born, bleed, have, as one child put it, "a real skin." In short, in an era of anxiety about simulation and "virtual reality," a third kind of argument for fellowship seems to be on the horizon: That what human beings share with animals are real bodies.

Ultimately, though, fellow feeling as an argument for animal rights is a trap. After all, people's ability to empathize is notoriously fickle — otherwise, the majority of American dog owners would keep their animals longer than the current average of about two years. And besides, what kind of an ethic requires people to be nice only to those who are like themselves?

Money Politics, And Its Suckers

Continued From Page 1

hand, who will be known here as Lobbyist Y. "Not in so many words."

Often, people with conflicting views are giving and lobbying, so someone is bound to lose. Such was the case with the mammoth Telecommunications Act of 1996, which affected many competing interests, and with the banking officials who attended White House coffees and lobbied for Administration favor with little apparent success.

"Remember the tax act of 1986?" asked a third lobbyist, to whom we will assign the letter Z. "Corporations threw money at Congress, which went ahead and closed the loopholes that they wanted to keep open. It happens."

So far, though things may of course change, no evidence has been produced that the Riady family from Indonesia secured any change in policy from the White House for its large contributions to the Clinton reelection effort.

An 'Arms Race'

According to Lobbyist Z, it is usually easier to get something stopped than to push it through. She mentioned the long-pending revision of the Glass-Steagall Act, which forbids banks to engage in the securities business, as an example. Banks, hoping to help reform along, have contributed just as heavily in strategic places as securities firms, which like the protection from competition that the status quo affords. But the securities firms have so far prevailed, she said, "because you can block things in the shadows, with all manner of parliamentary devices, and passage requires a roll-call vote."

If the quid pro quo is so uncertain, it seems fair to ask, why give? Lobbyist Y: "It's a kind of arms race. You give so you won't be left behind by your rivals, and you do it in all the ways you can think of — hard money, soft money, individually through PAC's, even arts sponsorship. Ford supports the Phillips Gallery, G.M. is active at Kennedy Center. Mobil sponsors shows at the National Gallery, and then they invite people from the Hill that they do business with to come in big black-tie openings."

The dynamic is not unlike the one familiar to many ordinary Americans who get a phone call at home in the evening from the local police union, selling tickets to an annual ball. If you buy two, you get a sticker — "I support the local police," or something. No promises that you won't get

stopped for speeding or get let off if you do. But that possibility hangs in the air, unspoken, and you wonder whether you can pass up the chance.

A typical if unusually skilled operation, cited admiringly by several lobbyists, is that of Time Warner Inc., whose Washington representative, Tim Boggs, covers all the bases: Corporate money, known as "soft money" in the lingo of the trade, goes to campaign committees for purportedly nonpartisan uses, political action committee dollars flow to individual candidates, and Mr. Boggs uses the private theater of the Motion Picture Association of America to give influential legislators and others previews of the company's movies.

Not that lobbyists like the system. Many describe it as grotesque and burdensome. Norman Ornstein, a political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute, who has spent much of the last year studying campaign-finance issues, says his lobbyist friends compare the system to Mafia "protection." When he half-jestingly suggested in a speech last fall that maybe there should be a lobbyists' committee for campaign reform, he was swamped with approving phone calls.

The pressure has escalated from subtle to heavy-handed in the last four years," he said. "With the House up for grabs, and with court rulings making it easier to give big, candidates really put the squeeze on."

For fund-raising cocktail parties on Capitol Hill, politicians used to send out flyers to lists of lobbyists, trolling for guests at \$250 to \$500 a pop. If some came, fine; if not, so be it. But now they have staff members follow up with phone calls, telling lobbyists that "you're going to stand out," in the case of one such call, "if you're not there."

Villains or Victims?

In a few cases, lobbyists allege, they have been told, "If you want something on our agenda, or off, forget it unless you give."

"They probably can't deliver on their threats," Mr. Ornstein said. "They may not even intend to. But that stuff can still be effective, because it makes lobbyists nervous."

In fact, it would seem, the system has more victims than villains — politicians forced by the insatiable demand for money for campaign expenses, mostly for television ads, into demeaning and time-wasting begging and even threatening. Lobbyists obliged to give lest they be eclipsed by rivals, and the public, which tends to be relegated to the sidelines.

The Nation
Albright

A Life to Jewish History

We should be Secret
State now to be lo
World Education

Putting
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Backlash Brewing

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The Nation

Albright Finds Her Place Among History's Victims

By ARI L. GOLDMAN

THERE is nothing new about Jews or people of Jewish background serving in the highest echelons of American government. There have been — and are — senators, members of Congress and Cabinet-level officials, especially in the 24 years since Henry Kissinger became the first Jewish Secretary of State.

But the news last week that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright is the grandchild of Jews who perished in the Holocaust was different, because her Jewish roots had been a secret, hidden even from Ms. Albright by her parents.

A Tie to Jewish History

The disclosure does not, of course, make her a Jew; she remains a Christian who was born a Roman Catholic in 1957 and became an Episcopalian when she married in 1989. But, like it or not, the disclosure ties her in a personal and tragic way to one of the defining moments of modern Jewish history: the Holocaust.

It has always been known that her parents fled Czechoslovakia to escape Nazism. But now much more is added to the story: They were born Jews but converted in



Madeleine Albright's cousin, Milena Demlova, with their grandmother, Olga Korbel, a Holocaust victim.

Will the new Secretary of State now tend to look at the world differently?

the shadow of Hitler's advance, then lived out their lives as Catholics and brought their daughter up in Christianity. Three of their own parents died in the slaughter.

"The important question is: does this make Madeleine Albright look at the world differently?" said Samuel C. Heilman, professor of sociology at Queens College of the City University of New York and author of "Portrait of American Jews" (University of Washington Press, 1996). "Does it help her understand the insecurities of the Jewish people in the wake of the Holocaust? Does it make her more sensitive to needs of Israel?"

The State Department said such questions were largely irrelevant. When The Washington Post published the story of Ms. Albright's background last week, the State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said: "This is a personal issue for her and her family. It is not a political issue. It is not a foreign policy issue and it's not going to have an impact on the way she does her job."

But Professor Heilman was not so sure. "This is more than a personal discovery," he said. "It is suddenly joining a people, even if she continues to identify herself as an Episcopalian. The Jewish people will never look at her the same way."

The Washington Post revelations, which Ms. Albright declared to be "fairly compelling," were not the first inkling of her Jewish roots. The Mayor of the Czech town where her father grew up said last week that he had sent her several letters documenting her heritage. A spokesman for the Secretary of State said Ms. Albright did not remember that specific correspondence. She said numerous letters about her heritage arrived from Central Europe but did not seem conclusive. Nevertheless,

during the White House vetting process before she was appointed, officials said, such letters had prompted her to raise the possibility that she was of Jewish descent.

Last December, after President Clinton nominated her, Arab newspapers, like the London-based Al Hayat, published suggestions that she was Jewish, and called her the choice of "the Jewish lobby." After the reports were confirmed last week, Al Madina, a Saudi newspaper, said the Washington Post article "constitutes indirect Zionist blackmail" to force America into pro-Israel positions.

Even before the latest revelation, prominent American Jews had been favorably disposed to Ms. Albright. "Jews were already wild about her," said J. J. Goldberg, author of "Jewish Power" (Addison-Wesley, 1996), a new book on the influence of Jews in American government. "The assumption was that she was a person who demon-

strated a commitment to an activist foreign policy and the use of American power abroad to defend democracy and values," he said, citing a formula that seems good for Israel.

The Holocaust ties aside, that would be consistent with her experience as a Czech émigré; she has often said her touchstone in thinking about foreign policy was the West's failure to step in and stop Hitler in time.

Still, Mr. Goldberg said the revelations of Ms. Albright's Jewish roots were significant because, despite them, her right to serve had not come under challenge. "This demonstrates the degree to which Jews are seamlessly integrated into American society, a fact that Jews still find fascinating," he said. "There's no scandal here, no crusade for her to resign. Nobody wonders whether she can do the job."

The reception that Jews got in government 40 years ago was quite different. "F.D.R. was mocked for having too many Jews in his administration," Mr. Goldberg said. "There were so many that his critics called him 'Rosenfeld.' " It wasn't until the 1960's that the tide began to turn as polls began to show that Jews in general were not considered a threat and a "foreign element." The experience was not unlike the fear that some Americans had of Catholics, a fear that was confronted and largely dismissed by the election of John F. Kennedy to the White House in 1960.

This Czech émigré knew the cost of failing to stop Hitler. But now there's more.

Over time, Jews and Catholics alike have apparently come to be trusted to pursue America's national goals, rather than those sought only by their interest groups. The list of Jews is long and includes Mr. Kissinger and the late Arthur J. Goldberg, the former United Nations representative and Supreme Court Justice.

By J. J. Goldberg's account, there are now 10 Jews in the Senate and 24 in the House of Representatives. In the new Cabinet, William Cohen, whose father was Jewish, does not consider himself a Jew, but Robert Rubin (Treasury) and Daniel Glickman (Agriculture) do.

The Jewish connection means more to some than others, but, inevitably, expectations surround having a Jewish name or background. Mr. Goldberg tells of interviewing Senator Paul Wellstone, a Democrat of Minnesota, who is Jewish. The Senator said he was guided by the words of his mother: "It doesn't matter whether you consider yourself a Jew, because other people will." Senator Wellstone told of other senators seeking his guidance on issues affecting Jews, such as Israel, even when he wasn't the expert.

The reaction to the disclosures about Ms. Albright's background included some examples of Jewish paranoia. Zev Brenner, who is the host of a Jewish radio talk show popular with Orthodox audiences that is broadcast in New York, on WMCA, said that one persistent reaction he's heard is, "Now that she's Jewish, she'll never last in the job. This is the end for her."

Something in Common

Other reactions have been more self-congratulatory. "Of course she's Jewish, she's smart; it's those Jewish genes," one caller said.

Robert Pollack, a professor of biological science at Columbia who is active in Jewish life on campus, cringes at the idea of Jewish genes.

Despite recent stories that some Jews, particularly the priestly class, are linked by similar DNA, Dr. Pollack says that "biology does not define Judaism." To think of singular Jewish genes, he said, is to embrace the ideology of the Nazis, who targeted all Jews with annihilation simply because of their ancestry.

"I salute Madeleine Albright as an Episcopalian woman with an interesting problem, a problem which I share," Dr. Pollack said. "Our ancestors were killed for no reason. Knowing that fact will make her a better Secretary of State."

God Therapy

Putting Life's Trials In a Sacred Context

By GUSTAV NIEBUHR

IN the world of politics, Ralph Reed and the Christian Coalition have come to signify sweeping change among the nation's 40 million-plus evangelical Protestants. But signs of a quieter cultural shift can be seen on a visit to a Christian bookstore.

In the section devoted to the "Christian life," once the province of books on prayer and devotion, you can now find guides on how to stop worrying, overcome codependency, manage stress and live free of guilt.

Those titles point to a major change: many evangelical Protestants, members of a group that long viewed psychotherapy as hostile to religious belief, have largely put aside their suspicions of the profession. The result has been a rise in enrollment in psychology courses at evangelical seminaries, the establishment of chains of psychological clinics catering to a conservative Christian clientele and the discussion of topics related to therapy on religious radio stations.

A Backlash Brewing

Proponents of what is broadly called "Christian counseling" say many evangelicals have come to believe that psychological help can come from a religious perspective, with reference to God and Scripture, rather than from Freud and Jung. And this type of psychotherapy has become accepted "because people see the results" in fellow churchgoers who have been helped to overcome depression, anger and sundry other ills, said Steven Arterburn, co-founder and chairman of New Life Ministries, a chain of counseling centers. Mr. Arterburn also created Women of Faith, a new organization that has held mass meetings in various cities in which women talk of relying on God as they cope with all manner of problems.

Mr. Arterburn, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., acknowledged that a backlash was brewing against Christian psychotherapy. "There's still a large movement counter to counseling in the church," he said.

The critics are a varied group, some totally hostile to the movement, others taking a more nuanced approach. But what worries

many is concern that the language of the therapist's office will come to dominate pulpit and pew, that the traditional focus on salvation will collapse into a pre-occupation with self-esteem.

"It's a huge trend," said Os Guinness, a senior fellow at Trinity Forum in Burke, Va., which provides educational seminars to business executives. Mr. Guinness says he fears "a total replacement of theological categories with psychological categories."

Mr. Guinness wrote recently that although healing has always been a basic part of the church's mission, he was concerned that the apparent fascination of many evangelicals with psychotherapy risked making it an "alternative gospel" in their churches.

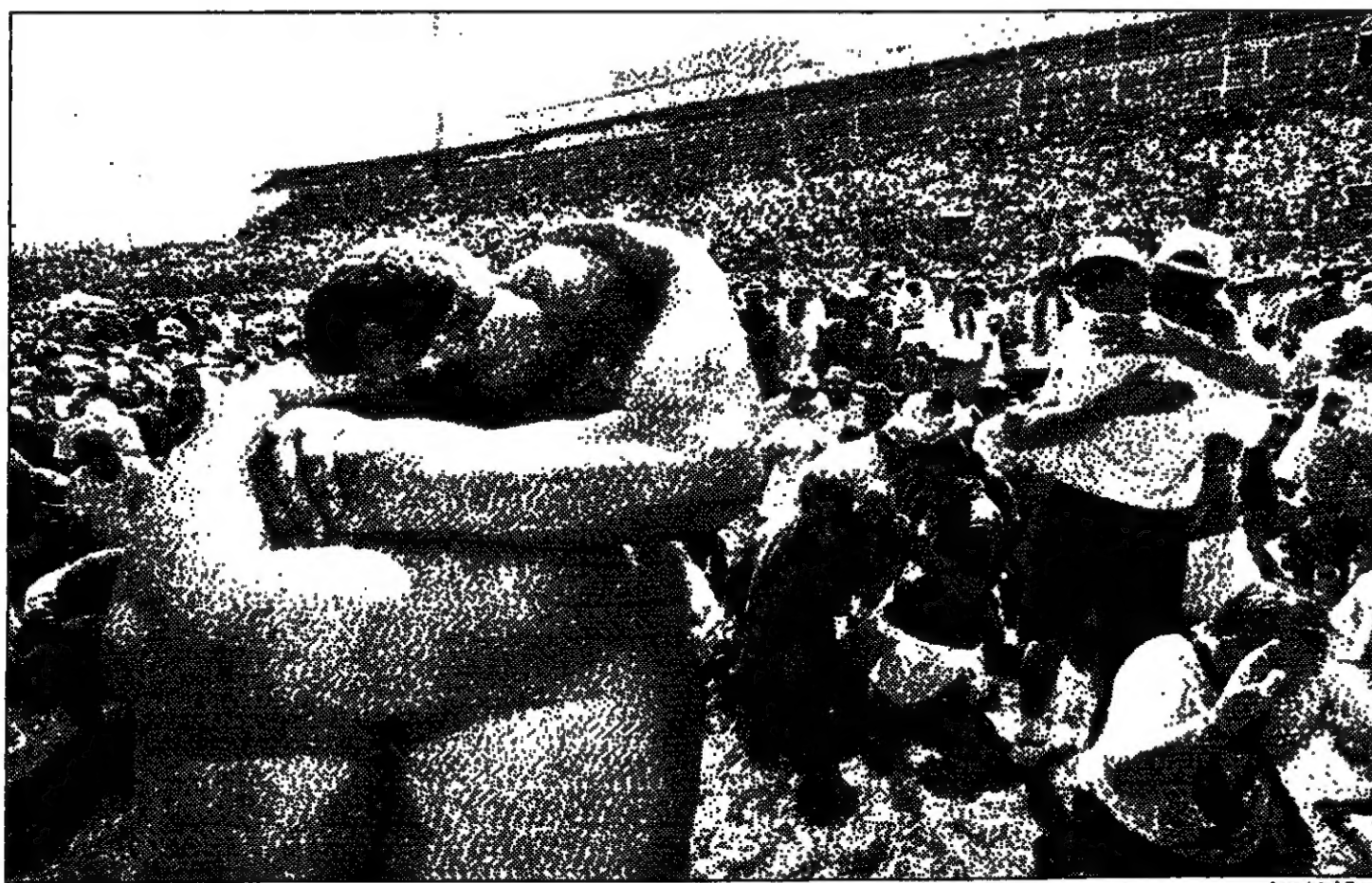
Historically, Protestants in this country have allowed room not only for people concerned with the individual soul's relationship to God but also for those who would look for faith's concrete results.

It was a clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, who wrote "The Power of Positive Thinking." Many have followed his path, including the Rev. Robert Schuller, a television preacher and author of numerous best-selling books, with titles like "The 31 Attitudes" and "Believe in the God Who Believes in You." (Last Tuesday, as he delivered the State of the Union address, President Clinton thanked Mr. Schuller, who was seated with Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary, in the House gallery, for providing him with a verse from Isaiah on which to reflect.)

In voicing their concerns, critics of the Christian psychology movement are in effect raising a larger question: In the interaction of organized religion and the broader society, who is transforming whom?

In recent years, that question has focused on "megachurches," the vast suburban temples built by enterprising pastors who often include non-sacred features like aerobics classes, cafés and even movie theaters. Defenders of the megachurch movement say such amenities are the medium, not the message, meant to make churchgoing attractive to a post-World War II generation raised on shopping malls and multiplex cinemas. That generation, too, grew up familiar with encounter groups and the belief that a readiness to share one's feelings was a sign of personal health.

Young people who absorbed those ideas



Mass movements draw on religious self-help. After praying, men embrace at a North Carolina conference of the Promise Keepers.

were among those who belonged to religious youth groups in the 1960's or fell in with the born-again hippies of the "Jesus Movement" of the 1970's, said Nancy T. Ammerman, a professor of sociology of religion at Hartford Seminary. Nowadays, she said, "those folks

Evangelicals now embrace a religious psychotherapy.

are the deacons and the preachers."

Some of their congregants, too, are men and women who have had experience with the "recovery movement," whose best-known component is Alcoholics Anonymous. In the 1980's, recovery groups grew explosively, as people sought relief from addictions and personal traumas by following spiritually oriented 12-step programs that de-

manded that adherents look to a "higher power" and take "a searching and fearless moral inventory" of themselves.

The success of those groups has influenced organized religion, prompting many churches (including megachurches) to create their own small groups, each with a dozen or so members, following the outward form, if not the content, of A.A.

"The ones I have seen definitely have a support-group dynamic to them," Professor Ammerman said, calling them forums where the realities of everyday life and faith are placed alongside each other.

Prayer Power

Although such groups typically center on Bible study or a discussion of parenting or personal finances, they allow participants to raise personal concerns, often in the form of prayer requests. What such a request amounts to, Professor Ammerman said, is, "I'm putting whatever's happening in my life into sacred context, and I'm asking you, the support group, to help me understand what God is trying to accomplish."

In a study he did of small groups five years ago, Robert Wuthnow, a professor of sociology at Princeton University, estimated that there were 3 million of them scattered around the country, many in churches, others built around 12-step programs.

He said he saw them providing an essential coping mechanism for many of their participants. "The world we live in is such a jolting, jarring experience for many people," he said.

But for the church, he saw a mixed blessing. Such small groups can create a sense of community where none existed, bring people into Bible studies and help pastors attract people into church life, he said.

But this can come at a cost, Professor Wuthnow added, saying these groups' spiritual dynamics can "inoculate people against deeper forms of spirituality and deeper relationships with God."

"It's subtle, because the language of Christianity is one of love and acceptance," he said. "But in many small groups, it's such total acceptance and tolerance, there may not be much accountability that is part of the package."

Ideas & Trends

Are They Dead Yet? Well, Yes and No.

By FRANK BRUNI

ABE VIGODA has been dead so long he's learned to live with it. The mix-up started in 1983, when People magazine prematurely interred the jowly, sunken-eyed grin of the TV show "Barney Miller" by prefacing his name with the phrase "the late." Since then, Mr. Vigoda says, the confusion has never stopped. Just a month ago, he says, a salesman at Bloomingdale's did a double take, then stammered: "You look like Abe Vigoda. But you can't be Abe Vigoda, be-

Of late, fame can be followed by a long passage of neglect.

cause he's dead. Wait, are you Abe Vigoda? You can't be!"

He can and he is — the same Abe Vigoda, hale at 75, who takes daily jogs around the reservoir in Central Park and watches one or two runners turn vaguely pale as they pass him, as if they have spotted an apparition. Such is the nature of life among the nearly dead, who have merely departed to the periphery of the public's radar screen.

Mr. Vigoda, by dint of name recognition, belongs to that breed of aged entertainers, politicians and others about whom one can never quite be sure: Are they still alive? Or did I miss the obituary?

The existence of such a tribe was highlighted in a trailer for the movie "Mother," in which the director Albert Brooks, playing one side of a phone conversation, bragged that he had cast "the legendary Debbie Reynolds" in the title role, then, after a pause, protested, "She's not dead."

Now there is actually a resource to consult. It's an Internet site called the Dead

People Server, and it's a cheeky, irreverent compendium of all those personages whose fleeting tangos with fame gave way to a more enduring celebrity limbo.

The cyber-equivalent of an E.K.G., it offers the reassurance that Charo has not departed for that koochie-koo kingdom in the sky, and reminds that Minnie Pearl now wears her price-tag tassel in what is assuredly a grander, older opsy. Buddy Hackett is still among us, albeit sighted less often than Bigfoot, while Joan Hackett, sadly, is not.

Tasteless? Absolutely. Useless? Certainly not. The Dead People Server and the celebrity malingers it documents are arguably the ultimate proof, and inevitable consequence, of a Warholian world in which 15 minutes of attention give way to a yawning, seemingly interminable passage of neglect.

Listing people who are truly dead as opposed to just doing a convincing imitation addresses a real, if not exactly pressing, problem of these celebrity-obsessed times: With so many putatively famous people knocking around, it is downright impossible to keep track of where they are, let alone whether they are breathing.

"Celebrity has really taken over the culture of the media, and the news is more than ever celebrity news, so it makes for a very crowded field, and a lot of people get squeezed off," says Mark Crispin Miller, a professor of media studies at Johns Hopkins University. Moreover, Mr. Miller says, the squeezing "seems to have accelerated."

The Captain Is Here

Bob Keeshan, for the record, is alive and well and writing books and departing for speaking tours from a home base in Norwich, Vt. If his name does not ring a bell, that of his alter ego — Captain Kangaroo — should rattle a xylophone. (The man who played Mr. Green Jeans, Hugh "Lumpy" Brannum, alas, is dead.)

Mr. Keeshan gets prickly about the notion of being mistaken for dead, insisting it never happens. But a publicist at Fairview Press, Mr. Keeshan's publisher, cited that erroneous assumption as an obstacle in marketing



Abe Vigoda, alive and well last week in his Manhattan apartment, after working out.

his books. Mr. Keeshan's agent also said that people are sometimes surprised to learn that Mr. Keeshan is alive.

And Mr. Keeshan, 69, ends a telephone interview by saying, in a tone of strained mirth, "Do I need to send you a notarized statement saying I'm alive, so you know you're not talking to a recording?"

Nonetheless, his mention on the Dead People Server is at least logical. The appearance of others seems a bit like overkill. While it may surprise some people that Fats Domino is still alive, it will be a revelation only to cave dwellers that Kurt Cobain is not. And while it will unshutter some eyes to discover that the politician Carl Albert is still with us, is there anyone who doesn't know that Bella Abzug is still blustering on?

"I remain very active!" bellows Ms. Abzug, 76, upon learning of her place on the list. "I was in the press after the Democratic National Convention. I'm a member of the Democratic National Committee."

"I've been in Newsweek, I've been in

Time, I've been in New York magazine just a couple of weeks ago," Ms. Abzug goes on. "I'm working around the clock. I travel around the world. Right now, I'm leaving to go to the White House — this very moment."

For entertainers, the means for artificial celebrity life support seem to have diminished. "The Love Boat," which reliably gave these wayward souls a reprieve of shuffleboard on the Lido Deck, docked long ago. Similarly, the plane that whisked them to and from "Fantasy Island" crashed. "Hollywood Squares," which may go down as the most aptly titled show in the history of television, stopped offering leases to otherwise homeless celebrities years ago.

So what's an Abe Vigoda to do? He says he makes frequent appearances on Conan O'Brien's late-night talk show in part to dispel the greatly exaggerated rumors of his death. And he laughs at the confusion.

A producer actually called Mr. Vigoda's agent looking for "an Abe Vigoda type." And last June, a gossip column in the New York

Dead or Alive?



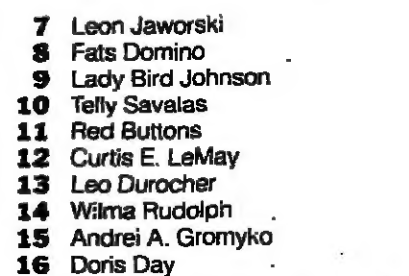
1 Mike Douglas 2 Floyd Patterson



3 Eva Gabor 4 Zsa Zsa Gabor



5 John Cameron Swayze 6 Shirley Temple Black

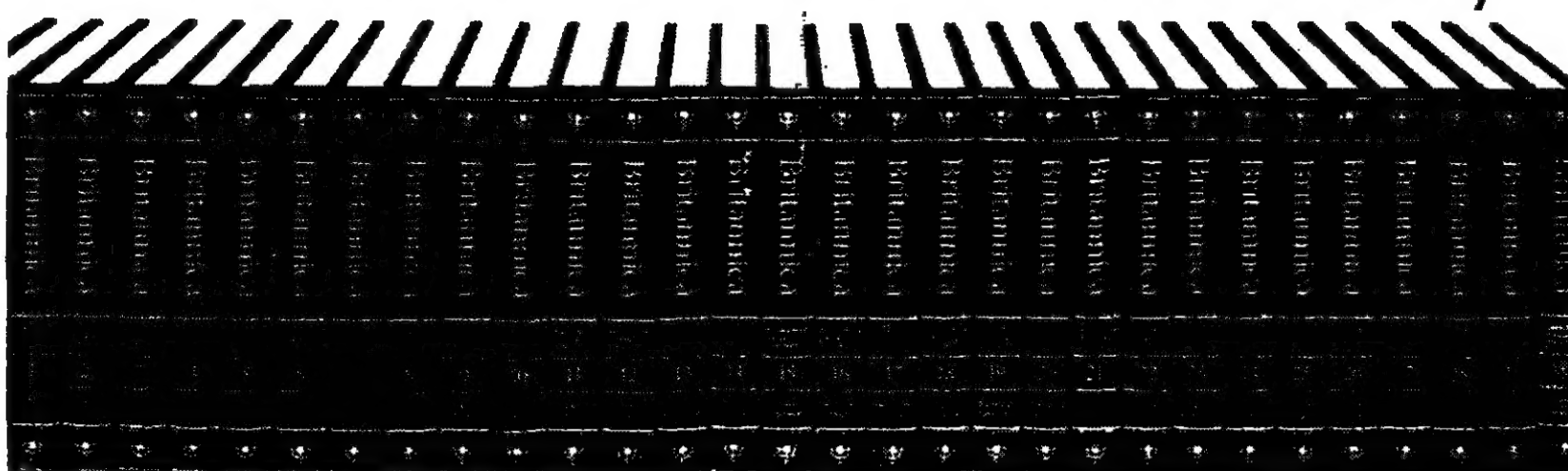


(1) Dead 1981, (2) Dead 1981, (3) Dead 1981, (4) Alive, (5) Alive, (6) Alive, (7) Dead 1981, (8) Alive, (9) Alive, (10) Dead 1981, (11) Alive, (12) Dead 1981, (13) Dead 1981, (14) Alive, (15) Alive, (16) Alive

The New York Times

Post recounted a heated conversation about Mr. Vigoda on America Online. One person claimed to have seen Mr. Vigoda in a Nordstrom's store in Escondido, Calif. Another fired back: "You need glasses. Abe's no longer with us." Yet another entered the electronic fray, writing: "I've seen Abe in person. He only looks dead."

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Tried, Tried Again

Continued From Page 1

classic civil rights case, was the result of enormous political pressure brought to bear on the Justice Department by the Hasidic Jewish community and by, among others, Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato and Representative Charles E. Schumer. All the more reason that follow-up Federal prosecutions give pause to Randy E. Barnett, a law professor at Boston University. "They only happen when there's a tremendous amount of publicity about the acquittal and there's pressure to get the right outcome," he said. "That's precisely when an individual needs the protection of the double jeopardy clause."

Some people are so distrustful of state power that they believe that if prosecutors don't win a conviction on the first try, they shouldn't get a

Victims file suit for drunken driving, domestic violence and murder.

second shot. It would follow that Lyle and Erik Menendez should not have been retried for the murders of their parents in 1989 in California and that Alex Kelly, the well-heeled young Connecticut man tried last fall on charges of sexually assaulting a young woman a decade ago, should not face another prosecution.

But the law and the public are willing to bear the cost of a second prosecution when the first ends in a hung jury, as these two cases did.

Imagine a system in which a hung jury translates as an acquittal, said Professor Michael Seidman of the Georgetown University law school. "If a judge thinks it has to be this time or never, he'll keep them deliberating forever," he said. "It would turn into an endurance contest where the dissenters, instead of authentically disagreeing with the majority, will have been coerced."

Besides, important questions of public interest would otherwise be left hanging in the Menendez and Kelly cases. Questions about wealth and sex. And tennis and skiing.

So, once more, raise your right hand. Inquiring minds want to know.

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ECONOMY

H & R Block Moves From Storefronts to Supermarkets

By BARNABY J. FEDER

LIKE 14 million other Americans last year, Muriel Page turned to H & R Block for help in filling out her tax return. She was pleased enough with the results that Block caught her attention with the filer it mailed last summer announcing its recent entry into the mortgage business.

"It's hard to get in with the big banks around here and I haven't heard the names of the other mortgage companies," Ms. Page said.

She ended up refinancing her home in Esmond, Va., a small town south of Charlottesville, with a \$71,000 mortgage from Block that cut her interest rate by 2.5 percentage points.

In just over a year of experimenting with mortgages, Block was able to put together a package of \$102 million in mortgages that it either originated or acquired from other lenders, and sold it to institutional investors late last month. This year, Block is expanding its mortgage origination efforts to more than 30 tax preparation stores in Colorado, Indiana, North Carolina and Virginia.

Peddling mortgages year-round is a far cry from filling out millions of tax forms in the space of a few weeks, but it is just part of a smorgasbord of initiatives that Block is pursuing in the hope of re-creating itself as a faster-growing, broad-based financial services giant.

"It just doesn't make sense to have 14 million customers and sell them only one product," said Thom-

as L. Zimmerman, head of Block's tax operations.

Block, which had earnings of \$177.2 million on revenues of \$1.7 billion in the year that ended on April 30, is hardly giving up the tax business. In fact, it figures it can gain double-digit growth in the next two years simply from working more aggressively to expand that business. But the 42-year-old company wants to also become known for financial software, annuities and other retirement packages, life insurance and investments like mutual funds to build and broaden its customer base.

The company is also experimenting with using its storefronts, many of which stand empty for much of the year, to promote college loan applications and immigration documents.

And it aims to turn its Internet site — which is at <http://www.conductor.com> — into a financial cyber-mall where visitors can trade stocks, check credit balances, connect to on-line banks and buy software like Kiplinger's Taxcut program for home tax preparation.

"Our most significant growth opportunities are in financial services delivered on line," said William Anderson, who heads Block's push into new financial products.

If Block sticks to its ambitious plans, a result will be one of the most sweeping tests of the reach of powerful brand names in financial services.

"The strategy is not illogical because they have a reputation for being trustworthy in a financial area that's pretty anxiety-ridden," said Bill Schneider, a brand management consultant at Lippincott & Margulies

in San Francisco. "But it's not necessarily easy."

Indeed, it's not even for a company with Block's strengths, which include a strong cash flow, a balance sheet free of long-term debt and experience in forming alliances with well-connected partners.

"Sears, American Express, Merrill Lynch all got killed trying to create financial supermarkets in the 1980's," said Bruce Greenwald, a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business who argues that cash-rich companies in mature markets usually reward shareholders more by increasing dividends than by diversifying.

Block has tried to diversify before, without ever finding a business that fit well with its bread-and-butter tax operations. This time, Block clearly will face serious challenges trying to grow on so many new fronts from its narrow base of just 2,000 permanent

Street during the late 1980's when he led TW Services, the owner of Denny's and other restaurant chains, in a bitter but ultimately unsuccessful attempt to stave off a \$1.65 billion leveraged buyout led by Coniston Partners.

Mr. Salizzoni, the son of a Pittsburgh construction worker, had started his career as a financial analyst for Trans World Airlines and eventually became chief financial officer of the airline's holding company at a time when it also owned the Hilton Hotels Corporation and other ventures. Although admired on Wall Street for his strategic experience, he is considered to be more cautious and methodical than Mr. Brown.

Most analysts now figure that there is no rush to either pile into the stock or to race to the exit.

"Dick Brown got the company going in the right direction, but Salizzoni is conservative," said Martin Romm, who follows Block for CS First Boston. "They are going to be prudent."

Mr. Salizzoni says his immediate priorities are to expand the tax business and to straighten out Computervue so the spinoff can be completed. On the tax and financial services side, he promises that Wall Street and customers are going to see "lots of tests of different kinds of products."

The job of speeding up growth in the tax business is falling largely to Mr. Zimmerman, whom Mr. Brown promoted to president of H & R Block Tax Services after forcing the resignation of Harry W. Buckley in the fall of 1995. Mr. Buckley says he and Mr. Brown disagreed over how thoroughly to test new programs that might interfere with traditional services.

"When Brown arrived, the shareholder became the most important person," said Mr. Buckley, who now works as a consultant. "Under the Blochs, it was always the clients."

Mr. Zimmerman agreed that Mr. Brown brought a new culture of aggressiveness to the company. When plans were made to try marketing Block's tax services on 10 college campuses last year, Mr. Brown challenged the tax group to go after 500 instead. In the end, the program, built around concerts and promotional items, touched 200 campuses.

The results were disappointing. Most college students, it turns out, rely on tax preparers back home if they need help. Still, Mr. Zimmerman said that the process was energizing and that moving faster and harder on new products would pay off in the long run.

To speed the process, Block has been recruiting experienced marketers from consumer products companies. Eric Steinhouse, a longtime executive at Procter & Gamble, Kellogg and Dow Brands, was brought in as senior vice president in charge of marketing in 1994.

Five new products and services were rolled out nationally during the company's last fiscal year, more than in the previous 10 years combined. They include a simple kit for drafting wills in the home and a program to help people who prepare their own taxes to check their results. Block also began offering in-home tax preparation for an extra \$25 for customers who are unwilling to visit one of its 4,300 company-owned offices. Franchisees, who do about a third of the business from another 4,000 or so offices in mostly rural areas, are encouraged but not required to offer the new services.

It makes sense for Block to work hard on enhancing its tax franchise. Block and its franchisees prepare more than 12 percent of all American individual tax returns, about 17 times the total of any other tax preparer. Some 70 percent of the customers are repeat visitors to its modest storefronts or to the offices in Sears, Roebuck stores that carry the Block name.

More than once since the 1970's, Block worried that the tax business had matured — only to have new tax laws, new products or other changes rekindle its growth. In the late 1980's, business skyrocketed with the development of electronic filing and refund anticipation loans, or RAL's, which allow taxpayers to immediately receive payments covering most of their anticipated refunds. In return, they have to sign over their rights to the refunds to the banks or other financial institutions making the loans.

Consumer advocates complain that many taxpayers do not understand that RAL's are short-term loans with interest rates that can reach 200 percent on an annualized basis. In New York City, Block has repeatedly clashed with the Department of Consumer Affairs over advertising and scripts used by Block phone operators, with the city contending that consumers may be misled about the difference between electronic filing, which leads to quicker refunds, and RAL's.

Last month, Block, while denying any fraud, agreed to pay \$250,000 to settle the latest dispute. But it is hardly backing away from RAL's. Indeed, it has formed a partnership with the Beneficial Corporation, a leading RAL lender, to invest Block cash in such loans.

RAL's aside, Block figures that its traditional business can grow rapidly over the next few years simply by opening satellite storefronts, acquiring smaller tax practices — it bought more than 100 last year — and raising customer retention rates to 90 percent, a level that some local offices already approach, from the current average of 70 percent.

For the last few years, Block has also been going after more upscale customers — those earning \$40,000 to \$80,000 — with a growing chain of "Premium" offices. (Block says that 80 percent of all of its customers make less than \$50,000 a year.) These offices feature posher surroundings, more experienced tax preparers and service by appointment in private rooms. They also offer guarantees to not only pay interest and penalties if Block makes an error in tax preparation, as is the promise at its regular offices, but to also pay up to \$5,000 of the increased tax assessment itself, for no additional fees. (Customers at regular Block offices pay \$25 for \$4,000 of such increased assessment protection.) Block served 643,000 Premium clients last year from about 600 Premium offices, up 16.4 percent.

Mr. Salizzoni said Block was considering opening an even more upscale chain of offices focusing on clients with incomes of \$80,000 or more, although it is reluctant to invest heavily in chasing the relatively small number of taxpayers in high brackets and in competing with major accounting firms for such business.

Block sees better growth opportunities in its tax business overseas. The company set up H & R Block International as a separate division last year and put Ozzie Wenich, formerly vice president for finance, in charge of expanding it.

"Taxation systems are changing everywhere," Mr. Wenich said. "There are middle classes emerging, and governments like to tax them."

Block already has more than 1,000 offices in Canada, which it entered in 1964. They handle just over 10 percent of Canada's individual tax returns, or 40 percent of those completed by paid tax preparers. More than 300 offices in Australia handle about 75 percent of that country's professionally prepared returns. Offices are also scattered in nine other countries, most of which traditionally assisted American soldiers stationed overseas.

Mr. Wenich says his first target for a big expansion will probably be Britain. Recent tax changes there have doubled the number of citizens required to file income taxes, to nine million. Block hopes to gain a foothold by acquiring a number of small accounting firms that handle tax forms and standardizing their service, but Mr. Wenich freely concedes that the strategy may not work.

"Trying to organize foreign accountants is like trying to herd cats," he said.

The long-term question for Block, though, is whether the company is such an unusual species of business animal that it is doomed to have trouble expanding out of its tax environment.

"It's like starting a new business every year," says Henry W. Bloch, 74, the company's chairman, who founded the business in 1955 with his brother Richard as an accounting agency. (They used a variant of their last name to avoid having it mispronounced as "blotch.")

Block's strength has been in building relationships with consumers who are not used to being courted by most American financial institutions.

"People talk to you about everything," said Sophie Wolan, who has been a tax preparer for 15 years, first in a Block office in Chicago and now in a Block Premium office in nearby Elmwood Park, Ill. "They'll even ask you to recommend doctors and dentists."

Over the years, though, Block has repeatedly bobbled attempts to transfer that consumer confidence and its skills to other enterprises, to sell its customers more products or to find other uses for its offices. Many such experiments have been timid, in part because of the need to make sure tax operations are not impeded and that no information gathered in tax preparation is used illegally for other purposes. But even when Block has moved more aggressively to diversify into related fields or to acquire companies with new technology that could help the tax business, the synergies have been limited.

Compuserve is only the latest and most prominent example. The company, which is based in Columbus, Ohio, was an insurer with spare computer capacity that it marketed to other businesses when Block acquired it in 1980. But the spread of personal computers, the Internet and competition among on-line services forced Block to keep redefining how the two companies might interact. The idea that Compuserve would provide electronic expertise and be Block's primary route for distributing electronic financial services fell by the wayside.

"The more they grew, the less we understood their business," Mr. Bloch said. "Once America Online went public and people saw how highly valued it was, shareholders became almost belligerent, demanding we separate the two companies."

Through subsidiaries, Block has also tried its hand at running a temporary-employment agency, selling business software and conducting management seminars. It has dabbled in travel, advertising, office supplies and insurance.

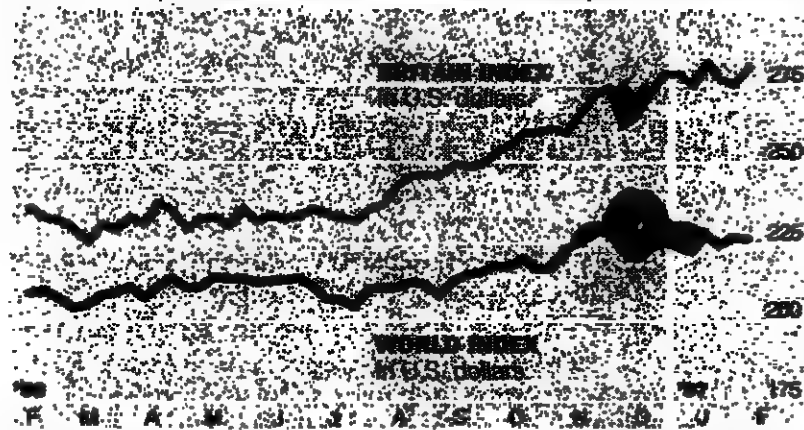
From 1980 to 1987, it was the major financial backer in the nationwide expansion of Hyatt Legal Services, a chain of storefront legal clinics intended to serve the same kinds of clients that Block has long helped with taxes.

"Everyone has to file a tax return every year, but not everybody needs a lawyer," Mr. Bloch said several years ago, explaining why the Hyatt alliance never made sense for Block. After Block pulled out, Hyatt retreated from storefronts and now concentrates on selling prepaid legal plans to business.

On the bright side, Block's shareholders have rarely had much to complain about. Even when its plans have not worked strategically, Block has usually managed to get out at a profit, or at least with minimal losses. Compuserve, acquired for around \$20 million, was profitable for years, and the initial public offering of 19.9 percent of the shares last spring raised \$519 million. Interim Services, a temporary-employment agency acquired for \$49 million in 1991 and combined with a small employment business Block already owned, was sold in 1993 for \$188 million.

Such results, together with the growth of the tax business, have meant that an investor who bought 100 shares of Block when it went public at \$4 a share in 1962 would have 41,206 shares today, worth around \$1.2 million, assuming reinvestment of dividends. The compound annual growth rate works out to about 25 percent.

The more recent softness in the stock underscores why Block needs to break out of its strategic straitjacket. And business strategists say the steps the company is taking to branch out into financial services are crucial.



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Index's performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

		IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURRENCY			
Country	Index	Week	YTD	YTD	Dividend	Index	Week	YTD	Dividend
Australia	214.83	0.9	11	3.2	24	4.07	187.49	0.9	
Austria	182.18	-0.5	19	-4.1	25	1.84	158.30	4.1	
Belgium	229.89	-0.9	23	1.0	17	3.30	195.53	0.6	
Brazil	224.07	5.5	2	18.1	1	1.41	432.04	19.1	
Britain	280.06	2.0	4	-1.1	21	3.72	255.77	4.2	
Canada	198.97	-0.2	17	-4.8	10	1.89	194.36	3.1	
Denmark	365.04	1.6	7	3.9	11	1.38	317.12	12.3	
Finland	258.63	-0.9	22	5.3	8	1.85	295.84	13.1	
France	220.18	1.0	10	2.9	14	2.51	194.87	11.6	
Germany	190.37	1.1	9	0.2	18	1.50	165.50	8.7	
Hong Kong	504.85	2.7	8	-0.4	20	3.09	502.15	-0.3	
Indonesia	247.11	-0.4	18	8.3	5	1.48	360.42	9.0	
Ireland	332.73	1.7	6	1.2	16	3.11	295.32	7.9	
Italy	95.63	-1.8	-5	14.5	2	1.80	116.90	23.3	
Japan	109.16	-4.8	27	-15.4	28	0.90	86.01	-9.2	
Malaysia	633.39	1.4	-8	5.0	9	1.02	608.31	3.7	
Mexico	1,335.42	0.7	12	9.5	4	0.97	1,392.99	8.5	
Netherlands	332.44	0.6	13	-1.1	22	2.59	284.91	-7.4	
New Zealand	87.92	-3.8	26	-4.2	28	4.08	78.39	-0.9	
Norway	315.36	-0.8	21	-6.7	8	1.60	291.04	9.7	
Philippines	210.31	-0.6	20	3.3	13	0.62	278.12	3.5	
Singapore	429.95	-1.5	25	2.4	15	0.98	280.26	3.6	
South Africa	349.45	7.3	1	9.7	3	2.38	338.93	4.1	
Spain	216.48	0.2	16	-1.5	23	2.70	231.91	7.1	
Sweden	421.54	-1.4	24	-0.1	19	1.93	463.52	8.7	
Switzerland	248.65	0.6	14	3.4	12	1.32	220.48	11.0	
Thailand	63.73	-5.5	28	-12.6	27	4.04	84.58	-11.3	
United States	321.25	0.3	15	6.4	7	1.86	321.25	6.4	

		COMPOSITE INDICES	
Europe	241.94	1.1	1.0
Pacific Basin	131.50	-3.2	-11.5
Europe/Pacific	177.53	-0.8	-4.8
World	225.90	-0.1	-0.8

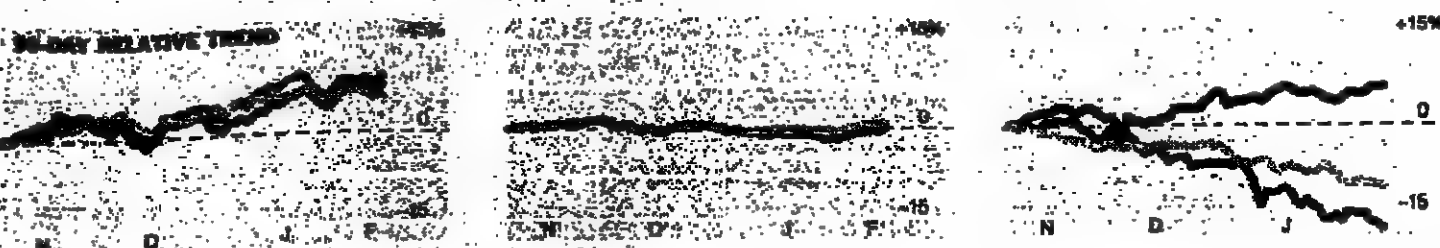
Sources: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

		PERCENTAGE	
Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	122.80	121.35	+1.00
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.6568	1.6383	+1.12
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3495	1.3478	+0.12
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6399	1.6007	+2.44

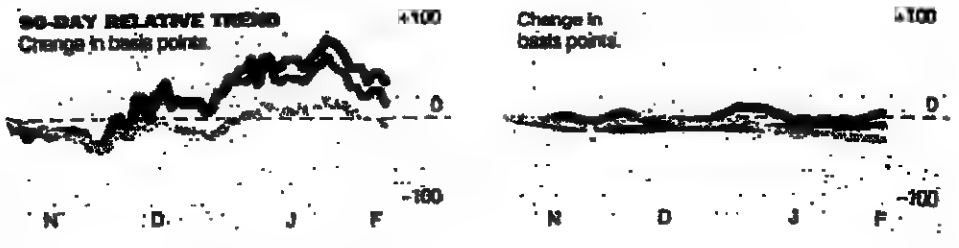
Sources: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

Feb. 3-7: Stocks and Bonds Rise on Fed Inaction, Weak Jobs Data

PRICES		DOMESTIC EQUITIES		DOMESTIC BONDS		AROUND THE WORLD	
■ Broad market	Up 0.43%	■ Treasuries	Up 0.68%	■ European stocks	Up 1.09%	■ Asian stocks	Down 3.19%
■ S. & P. 500 index	789.56	■ Ryan Labs. Total Return	195.90	■ F.T.-Actuaries Europe	241.94	■ F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	131.50
■ Blue chips	Up 0.63%	■ Municipal	Up 0.75%	■ Gold	Down 0.46%	■ New York cash price	\$343.30
■ Dow 30 industrials	6,855.80	■ Bond Buyer Index	116.88	Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms			
■ Small capitalization	Down 0.73%	■ Corporates	Up 0.76%				
■ Russell 2000 index	386.75	■ Merrill Lynch Master index	855.15				



YIELDS		OTHER INVESTMENTS	
■ Long bonds	5.70%	■ Money market funds	4.57%
■ 30-year Treasuries	Down 8 basis pts.	■ Taxable average	Up 5 basis pts.
■ Notes	5.82%	■ Bank C.D.'s	5.05%
■ 2-year Treasuries	Down 9 basis pts.	■ 1-year small savers	Up 1 basis pt.
■ Municipals	5.75%	■ Stocks	1.50%
■ Bond Buyer index	Down 7 basis pts.	■ S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 1 b.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs.

The New York Times

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Consumers and Managed Care

More than 50 million Americans are now enrolled in health maintenance organizations. Nearly three-quarters of those who receive health insurance through their employers are covered by some type of managed-care plan, up from 51 percent just two years ago. The growing dominance of managed care has helped control health care cost increases. Over time, managed care may also improve medical outcomes by emphasizing preventive care, coordinating the delivery of services and reducing the number of unnecessary procedures and tests.

But as managed care becomes the primary structure for the delivery of health services in this country, the trend raises consumer concerns about access, quality and choice. Managed care reduces choice in doctors and places more control in the hands of plan administrators. In well-run plans, enrollees benefit from lower costs and more efficient services. But that is not the case with all managed care. Consumer anxiety is further heightened when employers offer employees little, if any, choice in plans.

Voters in every state are demanding more regulation of an industry that they perceive to be driven by profits rather than concern for patients' health. The question is how best to protect these consumers while giving the industry room to experiment. President Clinton will soon appoint a commission to examine the issue. State legislatures are far ahead in the game.

A bipartisan group of state legislators from Ohio, Tennessee, Colorado, Texas, Oregon, Kansas, Delaware, New Jersey and Georgia has produced a model bill called the Managed Care Consumer Protection Act. The model bill has been introduced in several states, including New Jersey. While every state has begun to regulate the industry in some fashion, most have taken a piecemeal approach. Many now have laws that guarantee certain rights like 48-hour maternity stays. But those legislative efforts tend to be overly prescriptive, and insufficient to address broader questions of access to care.

The model bill offers a comprehensive ap-

proach. Several of its provisions can be implemented without undermining innovations in managed care. Plans, for instance, should offer an adequate number of primary-care doctors, specialists and hospital services within a reasonable geographic distance. What constitutes "adequate" would be determined by each state's insurance and health departments, depending on local needs and practices.

Plans should cover emergency-care expenses, without prior authorization, if a prudent person could reasonably believe that the ailment required immediate attention. They should provide enrollees with clear definitions of "experimental" procedures that are not covered by the plan. No plan should limit a doctor's right to discuss with a patient all treatment options, and all plans should be required to disclose financial arrangements between doctors and the plan.

Plans should establish internal quality-assurance programs, including ways to measure clinical outcomes, as well as formal grievance procedures that allow patients to appeal decisions to deny care. All plans should be subject to annual financial and service audits by the state.

Two elements of the model bill are more controversial, but worthy of consideration. The bill would require that managed care plans allow patients to see doctors outside the network for an additional fee. Since this "point of service" option is rapidly becoming standard in premium plans, it appears the market is responding to consumer demand for more choice without government mandates. The model bill would also require access to all F.D.A.-approved drugs, as deemed necessary by an enrollee's doctor. This provision may impinge too heavily on a plan's ability to control costs without producing better clinical results.

The model bill offers a sound starting point. Lawmakers should be mindful of managed care's potential for innovation and cost control. But they should also move forward with reasonable protections for the millions who must live by managed care's rules.

The Real 'Star Wars'

At a packed movie theater the other day, a parental ritual was under way next to a big poster in the lobby. Pointing with enthusiasm to scenes from the picture, a dad said to his son: "Here are the Imperial walkers... and over here is the Millennium Falcon." The boy nodded, finding a common bond with his father in the way kids have done for years when they went with parents to their first ball game or maybe first "Nutcracker" ballet. "Star Wars" has been endlessly described as a triumphal marriage of movie-making and merchandising, but this particular re-issue is most of all a tour de force of cross-generational sharing.

The Walt Disney Company long ago discovered the rewards of re-issuing classic features to successive generations of kids. But most parents bring little excitement to sitting through "Peter Pan" or "Cinderella," even though they know the young ones may be charmed as they once were. Still less appetizing for adults are the clunky remakes of childhood favorites like "101 Dalmatians" and, soon, "That Darn Cat."

"Star Wars" is that rare thing, a movie that works on several levels. Yes, it introduced an era of movies with lavish special effects, but that is not why it packs an appeal. It works because it is a story of classical space, mythic structure and traditional archetypes. Luke Skywalker's journey through the maze of the Death Star at the end is the latest incarnation of Theseus and the Minotaur. The hero's quest, his struggle with conflicting obligations and his ultimate confrontation with his father draw on ancient and modern mythology, from knights and dragons to John Ford westerns.

The experience of going to see "Star Wars" reminds the viewer of a long time ago (if not a galaxy far, far away) when marketing was not driven by demographics and the key to success in Hollywood was producing something that families could share and even discuss. A lot of movies for kids nowadays seem to be designed to drive parents away. How startling to go to a film in which there is something going on in the audience as well as on screen.

Editorial Notebook

The Albright Syndrome

Madeline Albright must have known.

In the days since The Washington Post reported that the new Secretary of State was born into a Jewish family, that has been the unspoken subtext of the disclosure. How could someone as worldly and intelligent as Ms. Albright never have inquired about her background, never have known that three grandparents perished in Nazi concentration camps, never have guessed her parents' Catholic faith might be adopted?

If letters sent in recent years by the Mayor of her father's hometown in Czechoslovakia reached her, why did she fail to respond to the detailed accounts they provided about her family's Jewish background?

Running beneath these questions is the suspicion that she did know, or made a conscious effort not to know, because she did not want to be seen as a Jew in a world still uncomfortable with Jews.

We may never know how much Ms. Albright knew, or why she expressed surprise at the Washington Post report if she already realized her past was not what it seemed. But the Albright case is a reminder that family history was not always explored or even welcomed by the immigrant families that fled poverty and persecution in Europe this century.

Some of those immigrants and their first-generation American children turned away from the past in a willful effort to escape it. My father, Howard Taubman, was one. He was born in New York in 1907, the son of Eastern European Jews who had arrived in America only a few years before. As best I can tell, he was eager to put the past behind him.

I cite his example not to suggest a close comparison to Ms. Albright or her family. Their experiences were quite unlike. One difference is that he was raised as a Jew, and always seemed comfortable with his Jewish heritage even though he did not attend synagogue. I still remember his determination not to buy any German products or to take us to Germany for years after the war. He finally relented in 1958, then stormed out of a hotel on the first day there, outraged by an anti-Semitic comment by the innkeeper. I was 10 at the time, and

When Family History Is Left Unexplored

I never quite understood his impulse to ignore the past, and in the last years of my father's life I tried to recover the memories of a time he rarely shared with me or my brother. He was more forthcoming in those twilight years, perhaps no longer fearful that the poverty and limitations of his immigrant parents would somehow hold him back. But even then I could get only the most fragmentary glimpses of my European ancestors. To this day, I cannot say exactly where they were born or how many of them died in the Nazi death camps.

My father made a living following his curiosity. As a journalist — a music and drama critic for this newspaper — his interests were boundless. He followed sports, politics and the stock market with the same fervor as the arts. But when the conversation turned to his family and childhood, the light in his eye seemed to dim.

It was another time and place, long ago, where Yiddish was spoken rather than English, where his first job was delivering bread before dawn, and where assimilation and education seemed the only path to prosperity. He was in a rush to break away from an environment he found confining. The ancestral villages of Eastern Europe were ancient history to him.

He supported his parents when he got a full-time job, he helped put his younger brothers and sister through college and we visited my grandparents in Brooklyn at least once a month when I was growing up. He was a loving and caring son, but he seemed to keep that part of his life in a separate compartment. My grandparents' apartment seemed like a foreign country to me.

I wish he had told me more, but I cannot condemn him for it. Had I been born into a poor Jewish family on Manhattan's Lower East Side at the turn of the century, I too might have seized the future and never looked back.

Perhaps Madeline Albright felt the same tug forward, and when the truth about her family began to appear she thought it too late and too painful to dismantle the world her parents had constructed and she had preserved for herself and her children.

PHILIP TAUBMAN

American Justice, Not Simpson, Was Real Loser

To the Editor:

Your Feb. 6 editorial "The Verdict on Simpson's Story" was notable for the delicacy of its language: "Yet it is also sadly true that this case has become a measuring stick for race relations in the country, leading to stereotyping by bigoted whites and distrust of the legal system among many blacks." What about bigoted blacks who, in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, still insist O. J. is innocent?

My eyes and ears have convinced me, during this whole sorry spectacle, that it is the news media — especially the six o'clock news, like-in-the-face television journalist — that have always been the first to play the race card. The most haunting thing about the O. J. saga is the way justice can be made relative rather than absolute by lawyers with little respect for the law. Black or white, nobody should be crying for Mr. Simpson. We should instead be weeping for the decline of

common sense in this country and the carnivalizing of the American system of justice.

KENNETH GAULIN
Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 6, 1997

'Crime of Rage'

To the Editor:

Your Feb. 6 front-page article on the response to the Simpson verdict notes that there was "an acute appreciation of subtleties by many people." The article goes on to quote the black feminist Barbara Smith's straightforward question and answer: "Who would ever have that degree of rage at her? This was a crime of rage, a crime of passion."

It seems strange to call it an appreciation of the subtleties when the alleged crime was one born of the violence that can be produced by the relationship between a man and a woman. As of 1992, F.B.I. statistics indicate that a woman is beaten by her husband or boyfriend every 15

seconds. At the same time, nearly one-third of female homicide victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends. Yet over the last two days, it seems that television and newspaper coverage has relegated gender relations to the realm of "subtlety."

That the case provides a powerful spark for discussions about race seems elementary. Why has it failed to do the same for dialogue about violence toward women in this country?

DUSTIN HOWES
RACHEL REISNER
Chicago, Feb. 6, 1997

A Deposition Canard

To the Editor:

Regarding "A Second Chance at Justice" (Op-Ed, Feb. 6), Akhil Reed Amar's argument that the use of criminal depositions is constitutional is laughable from a legal point of view, except for the fact that he is a professor of constitutional law. Has he forgotten suspect's rights? In 1791 the Constitutional Congress wrote five amendments on the subject. At the time this country had just freed itself from English martial law and our forefathers were wary of the "long arm" of the law.

Anyone familiar with a deposition knows it is a forced confession: the deponent must respond to every question, under penalty of perjury. Mr. Amar wants to have it both ways: force confessions but keep the Constitution. In so doing, he erroneously implies that evidence derived from criminal depositions would be sanitized by allowing the admission of only incriminating testimony at trial and by preserving the right to counsel. This is exactly how criminal confessions are obtained and used now.

If criminal depositions are implemented, the right to remain silent would be destroyed and the Fifth Amendment would be revoked. That sure sounds unconstitutional to me.

ANTHONY ROBERT BERON
San Francisco, Feb. 6, 1997

The writer is a lawyer.

Black Spokesman?

To the Editor:

Your response to the verdict in the civil trial of O. J. Simpson (editorial, Feb. 6) was just as one-sided as your pro-prosecution, pro-plaintiffs coverage of both trials. Paternalistic, too. Since when has Prof. David J. Garrow been a spokesman for African-Americans?

ISRAEL REED
Oakland, Calif., Feb. 7, 1997

No Televised Circus

To the Editor:

Your Feb. 6 editorial's assertion that the Simpson civil trial should have been televised so that we all could have seen how unconvincing O. J. Simpson's testimony was might be laughable if it weren't so appalling. If the trial had been televised, it would have been transformed into the type of media spectacle that the criminal trial was, and possibly would have worsened the racial polarization that that first trial generated.

The questions you raise about double jeopardy and the admissibility of evidence in the civil trial are legitimate, and everyone who cares about our justice system should be concerned with these. But a more immediate concern for many of us is what the O. J. spectacle shows about the dangerous irresponsibility of the news media.

WALTER RISKLEY
Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 6, 1997

Lower Level of Proof

To the Editor:

Re your Feb. 6 editorial "The Verdict on Simpson's Story": Rather than using television, as you suggest, the gap in the perception of O. J.'s guilt can be corrected by explaining that the level of proof required in a civil trial is less than that required in a criminal trial — something the news media failed to do when soliciting reaction from people after the recent verdict.

THOMAS C. GALLAGHER
New York, Feb. 6, 1997

Swiss Role in War Isn't Black and White

To the Editor:

Re Thomas L. Friedman's suggestion ("The Neutrality Myth," Feb. 5) that the Swiss use some of their holdings of Holocaust victims' assets to build a Holocaust memorial "that would teach the Swiss about their own unspeakable, and unspoken, chapter of history."

Such a memorial would tell a complex story, of compassionate, selfless acts of heroism, as well as crass, self-seeking manipulations. It might celebrate Swiss citizens like Charles Lutz, the Swiss consul in Budapest who under the noses of the Nazis saved hundreds if not thousands of Hungarian Jews by issuing safe-conduct passes.

And it might chronicle the story of the July 1942 efforts of Prof. Edgar Salin to transmit to Britain and the United States the grim news he had learned from reliable German sources of Hitler's decision to exterminate the Jews.

Few countries, not excluding America, can be proud of their actions with respect to the Holocaust. One need not search very long through United States archives to find examples as questionable and repulsive as those that are turning up now about some Swiss transactions. As detailed in numerous books, high officials actively suppressed Professor Salin's information on the planned annihilation and for years



Michael Morgenthau

obstructed efforts to provide relief to the victims. When Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau finally prevailed on President Roosevelt in 1944 to take refugee matters out of the hands of the State Department, his report was initially titled "Acquiescence of This Government in the Murder of the Jews."

As Mr. Friedman suggests, the Swiss will be better off addressing history than suppressing it. Holocaust victims should be compensated and we should encourage the Swiss to be fair. But we ought to curb our sanctimony. SIDNEY SHAPIRO
Chevy Chase, Md., Feb. 5, 1997

Chemical-Arms Pact Has No Reagan Imprimatur

To the Editor:

Re "Chemical Weapons Treaty Serves U.S. Interests" (letter, Feb. 7):

It is a distortion of recent history for supporters of the controversial new Chemical Weapons Convention to describe it as a product of the Reagan Administration, implying that the treaty has Ronald Reagan's imprimatur.

The convention, now being debated in the Senate, is a very different document from the chemical weap-

ons ban the Reagan Administration was negotiating.

The principal difference is that the Chemical Weapons Convention is hopelessly unenforceable. Cynical signatories like Iran, China, Russia and Cuba know that they could ratify it, make and store nerve gas in violation of it, almost certainly escape detection and certainly escape serious penalty.

The Clinton Administration has recently told Senate leaders in considerable detail that it has no intention of imposing meaningful punishment on treaty violators. It has also admitted that American intelligence cannot certify confidence in our ability to detect illegal production and stockpiling of chemical weapons in secretive countries, even in militarily significant quantities.

We know that the Chemical Weapons Convention, in its current form, would never have been accepted as consistent with President Reagan's policies. President Reagan was clear-sighted and principled in his opposition to arms control treaties that could be violated with impunity.

DOUGLAS J. FEITZ
JEANE J. KIRKPATRICK
CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
Washington, Feb. 7, 1997

The letter was also signed by four other former Reagan Administration national security officials.

That's Entertainment?

To the Editor:

In railing against the futility of bipartisanship, Christopher Buckley (Op-Ed, Feb. 4) correctly identifies the necessity of partisan debate to set our national agenda. But when partisanship overwhelms bipartisan interests, stalemate often results. Who needs another Government shutdown? Or prolonged stalling on hard budget decisions?

Even in undivided government, major legislation like the 1986 Tax Reform Act passes only with bipartisan majorities. Some may find partisanship great entertainment, but can-do citizens want elected officials to govern.

SUZANNE M. MARILLEY
Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 7, 1997

Albright Discovery May Show Jews' Assimilation, Not Conversion

To the Editor:

You explain the decision of Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's parents to convert to Roman Catholicism as a reaction to the rise of Nazism and their will to conceal this conversion as a reaction to the war (news article, Feb. 5; editorial, Feb. 6). As a Frenchman of Jewish origin, I have a different interpretation of these events.

Nations in Europe are more culturally homogeneous than the United States, especially among the upper classes. As European Jewish bourgeoisie became more assimilated and ceased to practice Judaism, many of their members came to see no reason any longer to refer to or distinguish themselves as Jews. This evolution was common among the Jewish upper class and Jewish intellectuals at the end of the 19th century and during the first part of the 20th century in Europe.

JULIAN LEVY
Hanover, N.H., Feb. 7, 1997

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send by electronic mail to letters@nytimes.com, or by regular mail to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-3659.

To the Editor:

The subtext of your Feb. 6 editorial is disturbing. You say that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright "has been hit by a thunderbolt from the past." And just what is that thunderbolt? Ms. Albright has just learned that her parents were born Jewish. That anyone would describe this as a "thunderbolt" is a slap in the face of all Jewish people. If the situation were reversed — that a prominent Jewish person learned of a Christian background — would that be a "thunderbolt"?

SHARON, MASS., Feb. 7, 1997

To the Editor:

You suggest (editorial, Feb. 6) that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's "strong record of support for democracy and human rights" should assure us that her views would not "be influenced by her Jewish heritage."

Though you say any suggestion to that effect would be "offensive," what would lead you to insert that disclaimer?

ADAM CHERNICHAW
New York, Feb. 7, 1997

To the Editor:

Re your Feb. 6 editorial: A character in a German film made several years ago set in modern Germany accompanies an older friend to Auschwitz, where the latter had been a guard, to retrieve a hidden trove of gold fillings pried from the mouths of dead Jewish victims of the gas chambers.

The younger man's life is then turned upside down by the revelation that his parents were Jews who, to save his life, gave him up as an infant to Christian neighbors.

Madeline K. Albright now joins in history with Jews who sacrificed identity for survival. For some anti-Semites, that this could befall the Secretary of State may raise a question of whether anyone's pedigree is safe.

DAVID SOSBOUX
Studio City, Calif., Feb. 7, 1997

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Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Dear Dr. Greenspan

DAVOS, Switzerland
 "Dear Dr. Greenspan, I have a terrible problem. I'm feeling irrationally exuberant about the U.S. stock market and I just can't shake it. I know you've said 'irrational exuberance' is bad for my health, and I've tried everything: Hypnosis. Valium. Short-selling. Even rereading your speeches from 1987. But nothing works. Every time I come over here to Europe, or visit Japan, I return home itching to invest more in the U.S. market. Please, please help me. Sincerely, Mr. Full E. Invested."

I keep dictating that letter in my head to Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, ever since he warned that Wall Street's long rise was being driven in part by a certain "irrational exuberance" among investors. I'm sure Mr. Greenspan has a point, but when you look at the U.S. from Europe, or Japan, some exuberance seems quite rational.

The Davos World Economic Forum is an annual gathering of the captains of industry and politics from around the world. Each year there is a star at Davos, someone who seems to define the moment. In the past, the stars have ranged from the financier George Soros to the Russian Communist leader Gennadi Zyuganov. This year the star at Davos was America. Whether it was Bill Gates of Microsoft or Andy Grove of Intel or Lawrence Summers of the U.S. Treasury, when Americans were on the dais people seemed to stay a little longer, listen a little harder. It seemed to be their way of saying that the U.S. growth model — not the rigid Japanese one, and certainly not the inflexible European one that has fallen far behind the U.S. in producing new information technologies — is now in the ascendancy.

And why not? If 100 years ago someone told you that by the end of this century the defining feature of world affairs would be "globalization" — the integration of financial, information and trade networks to create a single, high-speed global marketplace — and that you had to design a country best suited to compete in such a world, in many respects you would have designed today's America.

The U.S. has the world's most diverse and efficient capital markets, which reward, and even celebrate, risk-taking. Anyone with an invention and a garage can hope to raise millions overnight. It has a multicultural population that speaks the language of the Internet, a constantly renewing flow of immigrants, a transparent legal and regulatory environment and a

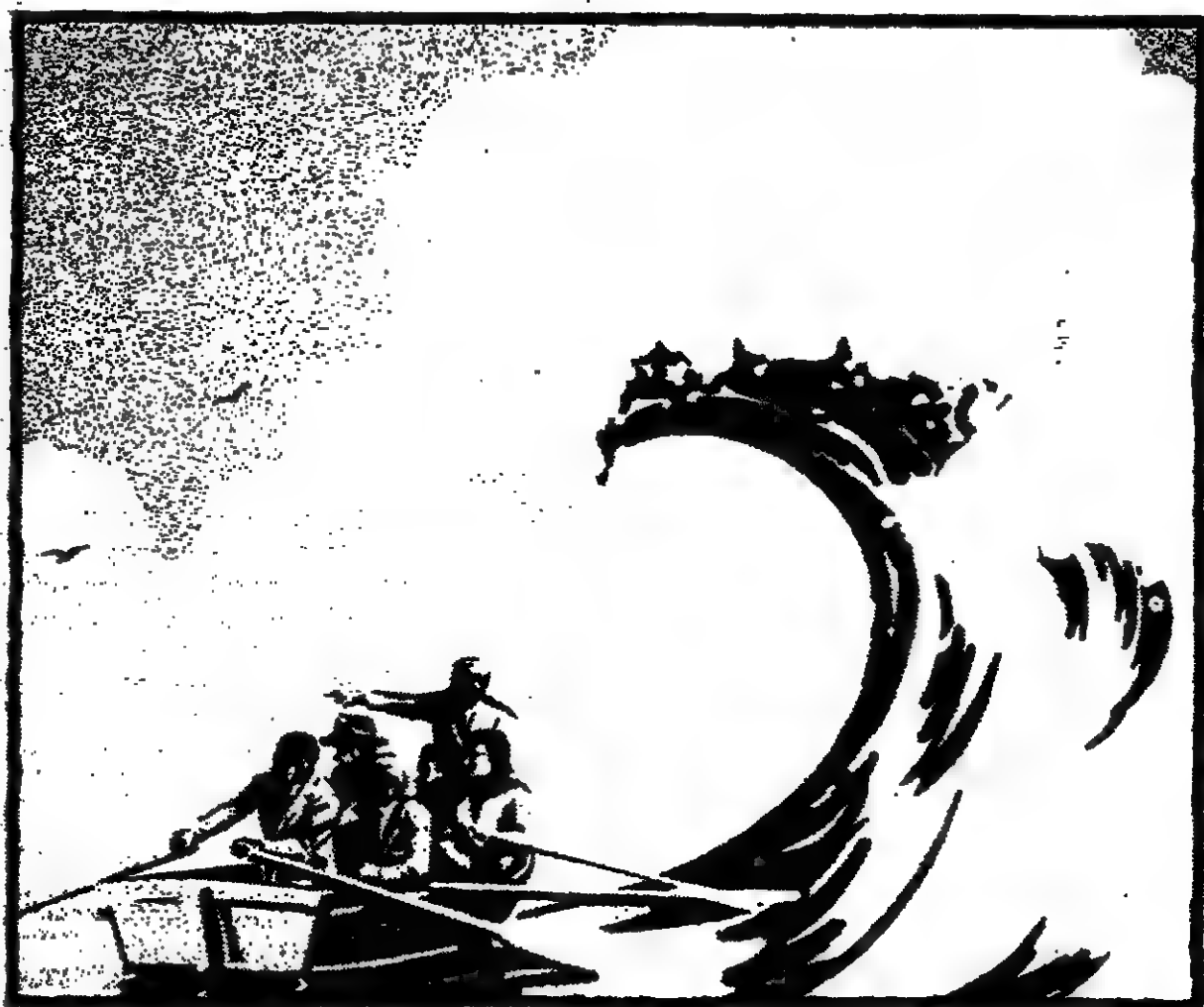
Don't worry. Be exuberant.

flexible federal political system. It has a job market that enables workers to move easily from one hot industrial zone to another, and a corporate sector that has, unlike Europe's or Japan's, already gone through the downsizing and restructuring needed for global competitiveness. It has multiple economies, with a single currency, on a single continent that looks to both the Pacific and the Atlantic.

And, most important, its big multinational companies and little entrepreneurs think globally and excel in almost everything that is post-industrial: software, computing, package delivery, consulting, fast food, amusement parks, advertising, media, entertainment, hotels, financial services, environmental industries and telecommunications.

Globalization is us. Of course, the stock market's sustained rise can be easily explained by traditional macro-economic factors — low interest rates, low deficits, improved productivity — and if these factors turn sour so will the market. But I suspect that there is another unarticulated, unquantifiable factor behind the market's rise. I would call it "The Globalization Premium." That is a sense among global investors that somehow the whole mix of America — its society, its culture, its technology, its business environment and its geography — meshes more naturally with globalization than either Europe or Japan. It is a sense that while many in Europe and Japan are still trying to adjust to the demands of globalization, and are barely up to the starting line, the U.S. is already around the first turn.

There is no way the U.S. can afford to be complacent, or ignore its underlying problems — our weak public schools and inner cities, our widening income gaps and our low savings rate that makes us very dependent on others. But it still seems to me that something more is going on with America than just another upturn in the business cycle. It is a structural change that makes America a very good fit with the brave new world. Call me crazy, but I think it merits a little rational exuberance. □



Nancy Stahl

Zero-Risk Leadership

By Richard Darman

WASHINGTON
 President Clinton opened his State of the Union Address by asking Americans to "rise to the decisive moment."

In an unscripted aside, he added that he was given a second term "to take the tough decisions." So it seems fair to ask: What exactly are the tough decisions he recommends?

He wants to "make a nation and a world better than any we have known," provide all Americans "the best education in the world," balance the budget, provide middle-class tax relief, advance medical science, build stronger families, end bigotry, and even have "our children grow up next to parks, not poison." Presumably, these are not the toughest of calls.

But it is hard to identify what tough calls have been made. The President seems to have over-learned the lesson of his first-term health fiasco. Instead of grand policy schemes, he has shifted to the other extreme: a laundry list of risk-free initiatives. Most of these are unobjectionable: \$11 million more for food safety; 100,000 more master teachers; 500 more waste sites to be cleaned up; and so on. Yet, together, the initiatives amount to policy tokenism writ large. They are not scaled to meet the challenges the President has defined. And they leave tough decisions for another time.

The President's budget reflects this approach exactly. A balanced budget is now within relatively easy reach, thanks to the budget agreements of 1990 and 1993, the Federal Reserve's anti-inflationary policy, sustained economic growth since 1991 and private-sector restraint of health costs. With little pain, the deficit can be reduced to zero — even as popular tax and spending tokens are put forward. That is what the President has proposed.

The problem, of course, is that unless more difficult decisions are made with regard to Social Security and Medicare, the deficit will reach zero (or a token surplus) for at best a few years. Then it moves back up to hundreds of billions of dollars as the baby boom generation enters retirement. To prevent a return of bloated deficits, and to avoid painful adjustments of future benefits and taxes, politically tough decisions on the big middle-class entitlement programs must be made well in advance of the boomers' retirement. That is, now.

The necessary decisions are hardly mysterious. They involve a combination of the following: correcting the overstated cost of living index; reducing transfers and subsidies to wealthier beneficiaries; adjusting the retirement age to reflect advances in healthy life expectancy; and, within reasonable limits, increasing reliance upon market-based approaches to Social Security and Medicare. These proposals have been thoroughly analyzed. All they require is prompt decision.

And that is what the President has explicitly chosen to avoid. Indeed, he has proposed that only after he and Congress have taken the easy approach to a transitory balanced budget should an effort be made to "agree to a bipartisan process" to reform Social Security and Medicare. Thus, not only are essential substantive decisions deferred; so, too, are decisions about the very procedure for deciding!

This habit of avoiding politically tough decisions is not confined to the budget. It is evident throughout the President's program — even in the

areas about which he seems most deeply concerned.

Education is intended as his defining priority. Here, the laundry list of initiatives and exhortations is especially long. In trying to understand the President's tough decisions one might wonder: When middle-class entitlements require restraint, should new ones be created? If the

Clinton's budget is a laundry list of token initiatives.

goal is to make American education best in the world, and if the lag is in elementary and secondary school performance, should additional scarce resources be allocated disproportionately to higher education? Strangely, the President's answers are yes. He seems determined to offer a little something for every constituency.

Yet why don't initiatives like an extended school year or market-oriented vouchers for public and private schools make his list — even if only as worthy experiments? They would reasonably be expected to improve performance and innovation. But by seriously challenging the conventional, change-resistant education establishment, they would entail political risk. The President, by ignoring such initiatives, underlines the driving logic of his "tough" decisions: The politically inconvenient must be rejected.

The effect of the President's zero-political-risk rule is made clear by considering his heart-felt reference to Isaiah 58:12 in the State of the Union Message. He called for Americans to be "repairers of the breach" of racism and bigotry. In the abstract, it seems courageous to put this high on the national agenda — for the breach is wide. Yet when it comes to particulars, one is again left to wonder: What exactly are the tough decisions Americans are asked to rise to at this decisive moment?

The President has noted a few encouraging statistics. But for much of urban America, reality has not been getting better.

Racial segregation is in some ways worse than it was in the explosive 60's. A destructive drug culture is more deeply embedded in America's ghettos. Guns are more prevalent. Random killing is up. Lines between the criminal world and the mainstream are blurred. Public education is strained beyond its capacity to help. Job growth and job opportunities are elsewhere. Social, family and physical infrastructure have all decomposed. An honest reckoning of the cost of addressing this combination of problems would be staggering.

To meet the President's goals of "opportunity, responsibility and community" would require huge commitments from the public, private and volunteer sectors. For those who like such analogies, the necessary investment would exceed the scale of the Marshall Plan and Desert Storm combined. It is measurable in the hundreds of billions of dollars, not in tokens. Even if it were approached incrementally through a series of bold, urban experiments, a serious effort would mean much tougher decisions on the budget. It would not be politically convenient.

And, quite obviously, it is not the approach the President has chosen. His approach to the racial divide combines high rhetoric with low investment. To the inspiration of Isai-

ah, it adds a political sprinkling of underfunded "empowerment zones." And it leaves most of the practical challenge of repairing the breach to 21st-century decision makers.

It is often noted that the President is no longer campaigning for office; he is running for his place in history. He cites important decisions from America's past as models for America's future. In examining heroic analogies, however, he might do well to observe that much of America's remarkable achievement is the result of courageous risk-taking. And zero-risk leadership is a contradiction in terms.

In a democracy, the challenge of leadership is not to find the path of least political risk. Society can find that on its own. Heading in the lowest-risk direction can yield short-term popularity. But it is an unlikely route to greatness — and rarely the best way to what President Clinton called a "land of new promise." □

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Bubba Don't Preach

WASHINGTON
 Forgive me, Mr. President, for I have sinned.

I believed that thinking critically about people in power was the obligation not only of journalists, but of all citizens.

I believed that the President was not supposed to trade government favors for campaign contributions.

I believed that the President was

He'll forgive if the press forgets.

supposed to abide by the law and honor the dignity of his office, not sell time on the White House bowling lanes to donors, or let bankers mingle with bank regulators, or shake down foreign businessmen, drug dealers and Mafia types to underwrite the obsessive purchasing of TV ads and polls during the campaign.

I believed that the President should be guided by principle rather than opportunism — so that decisions from vacation destinations to the color of ties to the fate of poor children are not determined by polls.

Forgive me, Mr. President, for these and other sins committed in the fulfillment of my duties as a journalist.

Speaking at a prayer breakfast, Bill Clinton urged everyone to pray for politicians and the press so we can "rid ourselves of this toxic atmosphere of cynicism."

"This town is gripped with people who are self-righteous, sanctimonious and hypocritical," he said. "All of us are that way sometimes. I plead guilty from time to time."

There was something smarmy and (dare I say) hypocritical about all this. I know that, for politicians, everything is material — from their sick kids to their dead siblings to their spiritual angst. But if Mr. Clinton really feels strongly about this culture of hypocrisy, why doesn't he stop vaporizing and look to his own behavior? The man of a thousand faces could lose a few.

What could be more two-faced than Mr. Clinton's urging Congress to fix the campaign finance laws in his 1996 State of the Union address even as he was corroding the system to assure

his re-election? Unless it was our overcaffeinated President sanctimoniously calling once more for an overhaul of campaign finance laws at his first post-election news conference, only to brazenly turn up hours later at a Democratic fund-raiser and assure guests who had paid \$10,000 a person or \$15,000 a corporation that it was a "good thing" that they were expanding the party's base.

When the President whines about cynicism, what he is really saying is, "Don't examine me too closely." He is not the sort of politician who can afford close inspection because he is not the sort of politician who minds skirting the line and talking out of both sides of his mouth.

There's an implication in Mr. Clinton's remarks that does not bode well for the American political system. The President seems to feel that disagreement is a failing, a sin. And that all disagreement is extreme disagreement. (As if there were no difference between people who oppose his programs or practices and people who think Vincent Foster was murdered.) And that disagreement is always an expression of personal dislike. The President does not grasp that disagreement, even intense and passionate disagreement, is a noble and necessary condition of democratic life.

When political philosophies and political programs collide, civility can be a kind of hypocrisy.

Washington was designed for conflict. The last thing this city needs is a soppy descent into woozy New Age psychobabble politics in which nobody is allowed to say anything sharp or in any way shatter the happy harmony of the spheres.

Mr. Clinton is being clever. Instead of shooting the messengers, he's proposing to baptize the messengers and bring them into the congregation. The press doesn't need to be absolved for its skeptical coverage by the President. (Anyway, a 1995 Times Mirror poll showed that the American public has a far more negative view of politicians than the press does.)

The Clintons have always operated with a means-justifies-the-ends philosophy. Now that they have achieved their ends, they can afford to get all lofty about their means. Win! Win! Win! It has been replaced by love, love, love. It's hypocritical and sanctimonious and self-righteous and cynical.

But I forgive them for forgiving me. Now back to work. Did Harold Ickes really auction off a tax deduction for a \$3 million campaign contribution? □

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Richard Darman served as the director of the Office of Management and Budget and a member of President Bush's Cabinet from 1989 to 1993. He is the author of "Who's in Control?"

MUSIC

U2: Searching for a Sound To Bridge the Decades



Adam Clayton, left, Bono, Larry Mullen and the Edge during a recording session in Dublin for "Pop," U2's new album—"We're so much better if we don't know what we're doing," said the Edge.

By JON PARELES

IT was crunch time for U2. The Irish band's next single had to be finished within three days, and the deadline for the complete album, which had not yet been entitled "Pop," was less than a month away. U2, with its producers and engineers, was recording and mixing in two studios simultaneously. Workdays stretched to 14 and 16 hours. But even at that stage, everything was subject to change — including, as it turned out, the final deadline. "We have trouble finishing things," said the Edge, U2's guitarist. The album, originally due last September as a pre-Christmas release, was finished in late December, with all-night recording sessions up to the last minute. It is to be released March 4.

During the nine months it took to make "Pop," U2 invited a few journalists in to watch the band record. This observer joined the group just as it was finishing the single, which was released last week. It was a rare chance for an outsider to see a process that usually takes place in private. For a band like U2, making an album is essentially a slow-motion improvisation in which ideas are seized and refined while the tapes roll. What state was the album in? "Chaos," said Bono, U2's lead singer. "Promise," said the Edge.

U2 was intent on renewing itself, determined to sound like neither its 1980's incarnation — as the most achingly sincere, and sometimes self-important, band of the decade — or the raucous, buzz-and-crunch rock band that has survived the short attention spans of the early 1990's. Like R.E.M. in the United States, U2 has been able to maintain the respect of alternative rockers while reaching a broader audience; unlike R.E.M., whose latest album was a commercial disappointment, U2 will wholeheartedly promote "Pop" with a world tour that begins in the spring. U2's label, Island, and much of the recording business hope that U2 is one group from the 1980's that can still sell like superstars.

U2 made "Boy," its 1980 debut album, when its four members, friends from high school, were still teenagers. The combination of the Edge's echoing guitar, Bono's impassioned voice and the martial rhythms of Adam Clayton on bass and Larry Mullen on drums was an arena-size peal, as instantly recognizable as the sound of the Who. The music itself evoked idealism with the resonance of a cathedral while carrying lyrics about adolescent turmoil and mystical Christianity. U2 made honesty sound like a holy quest, and millions of listeners responded, hearing their own yearnings in choruses like "I still haven't found what I'm looking for."

The band's old approach continues to reverberate in best-selling bands like Live. But in 1988, U2 reached a dead end with "Rattle and Hum." As it strained to create the sound of integrity, it ended up with awkward emulations of American blues and soul. So, a decade into its career, U2 transformed itself for its 1991 album, "Achtung Baby." It exchanged transparency for distortion and earnestness for a nervy ambiguity. "We were absolutely adamant that we didn't want to sound like U2," the Edge said. "We're so much better if we don't know what we're doing, because if it's too easy, then that's what it sounds like — too easy."

For its Zoo TV world tour in 1992, U2 filled stadiums as it performed amid a barrage of television imagery, mocking and savoring both the global marketplace and U2's own celebrity. "Zooropa," released in 1993, certified that U2 wasn't looking back. "We're probably the only European band of our generation still releasing relevant records and still playing in large spaces," said Adam Clayton, U2's bass player. "We've grown up along with a section of our audience. But we've always been relevant to a younger audience, and we

enjoy that position too much to give it up unwittingly. I think that in rock-and-roll, for a credible artist, the age limit may be about 35. But if you stay honest, you can push the age restriction a bit." Clayton and Bono are 36 years old; the Edge and Mullen are 35.

"Rock-and-roll is obsessed with juvenilia," said Bono. "But the sense of threat that rock-and-roll has is actually not about boys. There's nothing scary about a man trying to be a boy. Men are scarier than boys."

Before starting "Pop," U2 took a year off, then made "Passengers: Original Soundtracks 1," which was billed as a collaboration by Brian Eno and the four band members. It's an album of songs for real and imaginary films, full of eerie textures and juxtapositions; it eased the band back into the studio. By the time U2 started working on "Pop," the band's ninth full-length album, its members had grown fascinated by current dance music.

To make "Pop," U2 chose two producers. Flood, a soft-spoken Englishman, worked on "Zooropa" and has also produced albums for Depeche Mode and Smashing Pumpkins. Howie B, a disk jockey and remixer with his own independent label, Pussyfoot, is fluent in subgenres from acid jazz to trip-hop to techno to drum-and-bass to lounge. Potentially, Flood could shape the monumental tones and dynamics of arena rock; Howie B. could manipulate off-the-wall samples and sustain the abstract rhythms heard at after-hours dance clubs. Like David Bowie, whose new album, "Earthling," embraces the chattering electronic rhythms of drum-and-bass dance music, U2 hears its future in up-to-date grooves. But it doesn't intend to abandon melody.

"Musicians, painters, whatever, they have no choice but to describe where they live," said Bono, whose ordinary conversation is often true to a tradition of Irish bards. "Sometimes it may seem hard to keep your ear on the street because there's a lot of stuff you don't want to pick up. But as Bob Dylan said, 'He not busy being born is busy dying,' and I think the death starts in your record collection. I like to feel alive. I think I'm awake, and this is the noise that keeps me awake."

After "Pop" was finished, Bono described it as "a mixed-up kid of a record." Behind its surface exuberance, "Discotheque" broods over the elusiveness of love; from there, much of the album is moody and introspective. "Discotheque" is to get people dizzy so we can take advantage of them for the rest of the album," Bono said. The songs, consistent with U2's past, are often about searching: for love, for faith, for purpose. Amid the hipster drumbeats and rough-cut guitars, the songs are willing to confide their uncertainty. "That seems to be what U2 has to do now, to keep the context opposite the content," Bono said. "People think we're fun, but it's very personal music."

The title "Pop" was deliberately chosen. "Even though this record sounds like a sprawl, and the sounds are quite radical, there's a songwriting discipline at work here which is kind of pop," Bono said. "We were also annoyed at the word rock."

"It's a record about looking for some kind of transcendence as well as trash," he added. "And looking under the trash is where you seem to find that transcendence. In among the noise, that's where I hear that whisper."

But the concept was a matter of hindsight. In an era of 48-track recording, studio albums are less the execution of a conceptual blueprint than they are accretions of details: planned and improvised, inspired and accidental. A finished song is the residue of innumerable decisions, painstakingly assembled in the hope of sounding spontaneous and ineluctably right. "Sometimes a song is like a crystal," the Edge said. "Everything just develops in a clear and obvious way. But not very often."

The process can be wearying. "Options are the enemy," Bono said.

"A door opens and you walk through it, and you're down a lane way, and there's a light on in somebody's bedroom, and you knock on a door, you're upstairs, you have a glass of wine, and the next thing you know you're in Italy. There are all these diversions, and they're so tantalizing."

In the studio, U2 keeps its options open. As its deadline loomed, the band had nearly two albums' worth of material in various stages of completion. Almost invariably, the words would come last, as Bono and the Edge responded to the mood of the music they had assembled. "Sometimes it takes a few months for a record to focus," the Edge said. "You've got a lot of nearly finished ideas that could go lots of different ways, and then suddenly you see how things interact." On a board charting the progress of songs were notations like "Try new melody on chorus" and, for "Do You Feel Loved," the injunction: "Pop vs. rock... discuss."

U2's policy is to discuss everything. The band makes its decisions by consensus, over lunches and dinners or in the studio. "Everybody gets involved in everything," Mullen explained. "Sometimes that can be a real pain, because everybody's got opinions. But we've fine-tuned it over the years, and we're all fighting for the same thing in the end, to make great songs."

Flood, who has seen all sorts of approaches to recording, was impressed by U2's insistence on unanimity. "They're very egoless," he said. "The ego has to do with the four of them, not each of them separately."

For today's session, the first task was to wrap up the single "Discotheque" would be the song to announce that U2 was back in action, with a jabbing, insistent guitar hook and echoes of dance hits from "Dance to the Music" to "Love to Love You, Baby." The song begins with the line, "You can reach but you can't grab it." Bono described it as "an earnest little riddle about love, though it comes off as bubble gum."

For the past few days, Flood and U2 had been re-editing "Discotheque," shuffling its sections — which had been assigned names like "Drugs" and "Religious" — with a computer. Over lunch, listening to various versions, the whole band had approved a structure. But Bono wasn't happy with the way he had sung the word "tonight" three times in the song's last verse. "All right, Conal, full disco!" Bono instructed the assistant engineer, who flicked some switches. In the control room, above the console, a spotlight illuminated a mirror ball; a machine projected a city skyline on the wall.

Bono clutched a microphone and started tapping his foot to the music. To record three words, he would sing the song all the way through; perhaps he would improve on the existing takes. He sang while half-climbing out of his chair, then stepped up onto a table and worked his arms and chest as if he were on stage. He tried singing in a big, melodramatic voice, and then in a gentle falsetto; he tried a slight hesitation before the third "tonight." Flood stayed poker-faced and silent until Bono asked what he thought. "The first line sounded good, the second —" He shrugged.

Bono danced and shouted through the song again, working up a sweat by the time he was satisfied. The single wasn't done yet, however. Flood and the Edge would still be supervising alternate versions: one without vocals for television studio appearances, another without samples in case permissions weren't granted, and a third, four-minute version for radio stations. Mullen, who had avoided reading the lyric sheet, would listen to make sure he could understand the words. "I'm the lyric police," he said. The next night, the band would approve final mixes.

After his session, Bono decided to unwind with a Guinness at the local pub. A warning glance from U2's office manager turned out to be about his waistline. "Look," he said to her, pulling up his shirt. "Fat Elvis is gone." As he stood at the bar, a local man struck up a conversation about a house Bono used to live in. "You remember when you were robbed of a VCR and a couple of TVs?" the man asked. "That was me." Bono shrugged his forgiveness and asked the man what he had been doing since; he was regaled with a catalogue of petty crimes.

With "Discotheque" more or less complete, the single needed a B-side: a finished second-echelon song not destined for the album. In U2's own studio, with a view of Dublin's Grand Canal basin, Howie B., Clayton and an assistant were working on "If You Wear That Velvet Dress," a smoky ballad filled with troubled longing. What it lacked was momentum, and Howie B. was trying to find it. Then, in the many arrangements the band had recorded, he did: a nudge from the bass at the end of one verse, a glimmering sample from a contemporary classical album in another, floating bell tones and the

pièce de résistance: a hovering Hammond organ chord drifting in and out of the mix. Well after midnight, Clayton told Howie B. that the song didn't sound like a B-side anymore; it could be an album track. Howie B. and his bleary-eyed assistant shared a gleeful high-five.

Over lunch the next day, the band and both producers considered whether to make "Velvet Dress" an album track. Was it too similar in mood to other songs in the works? "It's really intense," Flood said, "and then you can't put anything else in that style on your album, which I think is really positive. It pushes you."

Two songs were complete. "Now we know how to finish the others," the Edge said. "Let's think of them all as B-sides."

Since "Velvet Dress" was now headed for the album, the single still needed a B-side, with the deadline two days away. "This is kind of a pressure situation," the Edge said. A new candidate for the B-side was "Holy Joe," which in its current state was a three-chord rocker with no words beyond a few opening lines — "I'm a humble guy/No, really, I try" — and a chorus, "Come on, Joe."

good to me." Bono and the Edge were sequestered, trying to come up with the rest of the words. Flood, Howie B. and Mullen were going over the punchiest sections, turning them into loops to use as the beat for the song.

Bono emerged with another B-side possibility: "North and South of the River," a song he wrote with Christy Moore, whom he calls "Ireland's Woody Guthrie." Written after warring factions in Northern Ireland announced a cease-fire agreement in 1994, it's a hopeful song about two lovers; the music merges the forthright marches of the old U2 with a hint of Motown backbeat. The song was complete, lyrics and all, although Bono would want to alter a few lines since the cease-fire hadn't put an end to the violence. The band gathered in the control room to listen to the song anew, and Bono asked for reactions. The song would be a serious flip side to the uptempo "Discotheque." Would the contrast be a good idea? The consensus was no; the song was too somber and political, too much like the old U2, for the band's re-emergence. Bono, biting his nails, went back to writing.

THAT'S AMORE

By DEAN NILES / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Like name of two Olympics
- 7 "Pardon me, Marcello"
- 12 Bay
- 19 The dawn
- 20 Sesaw
- 21 Nervous system stimulant
- 22 Amore from Judy Garland, 1948
- 25 Amore from Jan Garber and His Orchestra, 1928
- 26 Jonathan's father, in the Bible
- 27 Sour
- 28 Romance, e.g.
- 29 "Too-Ra-Loo-Raloo"
- 30 When dinner may be served
- 32 Amore from Dean Martin, 1955
- 35 Reply courtesy, briefly
- 36 Embarrassment (be mortified)
- 37 Where black is white, for short?
- 38 Muse for Milton
- 39 All alternative
- 40 It turns out its
- 41 Footnote abbr.
- 42 Griffith and Gibb
- 44 Rundown
- 45 It may be picked up in bars
- 46 Ruth's "Laugh-in" foil
- 47 "Bye!"
- 48 Star of 50's TV's "Private Secretary"
- 51 Amore from Andy Williams, 1965
- 54 "I do," e.g.
- 57 Express
- 58 Like an on-eye window
- 59 Example of Pease speak?
- 60 Metro entrance
- 62 Above, in Berlin
- 63 Subway passages
- 65 "Good —"
- 67 Lick — promise
- 68 Music for a baseball team?
- 70 Ore delivery, maybe
- 71 Vacation spot
- 72 Striking likeness
- 74 "The Spanish Tragedy" dramatist
- 75 Amore from Anita Baker, 1986
- 78 Actress called "The Jersey Lily"
- 79 Kentucky Derby times
- 80 W. Hemisphere land
- 81 Strike down
- 82 Aim
- 85 Certain South Asian
- 87 Initials in a 1991 financial scandal
- 88 Org. at Constitution Hall
- 91 Investigator's sources
- 92 Purplish
- 93 Verb for you
- 94 Relative of an onion
- 96 About

DOWN

- 1 Thrusting fencing maneuver
- 2 Knock
- 3 Provokes
- 4 "Gangsta's Paradise" singer
- 5 Provokes
- 6 During office hours
- 7 Needed smelling salts
- 8 Encrustation
- 9 Part of the soft palate
- 10 Pastor's sch.
- 11 Major C.P.A. employer
- 12 Strokes for Soli
- 13 It's inclined to provide shelter
- 14 Dark area
- 15 Ravel's "Ma mère —" ("Mother Goose")
- 16 Franklin's 1936 foe
- 17 Like a beauty queen
- 18 Contained
- 22 Where to catch a moray
- 24 View
- 26 Gloomy
- 31 Scully and Mulder's obsession
- 33 Telepathic
- 34 Court demand
- 35 "Away!"
- 39 Common on-line activities
- 42 Military wear
- 43 Precincts
- 44 — Winston Churchill
- 45 It's just south of Des Moines
- 46 Coming
- 47 — noir
- 48 Spirit
- 49 Cry of delight
- 50 That's the way it goes
- 52 "Bury Me in a Free Land" poet
- 53 Presque Isle locale
- 54 French score
- 55 On in years
- 56 Pooped
- 58 Relative of the English horn
- 61 Code letter after Sierra
- 64 Uintah Reservation Indians
- 65 Auctioneer's aid
- 66 Coin worth about 19 cents
- 69 Autocrats
- 71 Sunday reading
- 73 Charge
- 76 Fourth of July?
- 77 Truman's Missouri birthplace
- 78 Swiss tourist center
- 79 Lapel item, sometimes
- 82 Land
- 83 Kind of tour
- 84 Garden root
- 85 Fierce woman
- 86 Wings
- 87 Words read with feeling?
- 88 Some antennas
- 89 Cupidity
- 90 Fixes, as furniture
- 92 1937 DuPont invention
- 93 Marbles
- 95 Classic cause of a fall
- 97 — Tuesday
- 98 — creek
- 101 1977 Cy Young winner from the Yankees
- 103 Dutch treat
- 106 Letter from St. Paul: Abbr.
- 107 Standing prerequisite
- 108 Suffix with Samson
- 109 Do a little bit

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J.P. Medical

What's eating French Jewry?

French Jews are a crack in the myth of Jewish solidarity. Winston Pickett reports

What's troubling French Jewry? Follow the headlines and the casual observer might think that the burning issue of the day is the rise of a disturbingly home-grown brand of Islamic fundamentalism and its links to a spate of Metro station explosions, a letter bomb at a Jewish weekly in Paris or a foiled attack on a Jewish school in Lyons.

For Haim Musicant, executive director of CRIF, French Jewry's organizational umbrella group, however, a more disturbing malaise has been incubating for the last decade: inner-communal strife and a widening new fissure in French Jewry's relationship with Israel.

Musicant admits that these issues go right to the heart of French Jewish identity.

Take the communal taboo against criticizing Israel in public. Recently, two full-page advertisements — one supporting and one criticizing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's implementation of the Oslo Accords — appeared in *Ha'aretz* and *Le Monde* just days apart. For Musicant, the new wrinkle wasn't the fact that the French right-wing group Herut chose to publish its views before the Israeli public or that a distinguished group of 300 French Jewish intellectuals chose to air their criticisms in France's most widely-read daily. It was in the soul-searching that followed.

"Many people feared that when well-known Jews like Bernard Levy or Simone Weil put their name to an article criticizing Netanyahu for retreating on the Oslo Accords, it undermines the Israeli government," says Musicant. "But to my mind this was the first outward sign that France had imported some of the same divisions present in Israeli society," he says. "And with it, I think the rest of the world has come to recognize what we've witnessed on the inside for a while — the disappearance of the myth of French Jewish solidarity with the state of Israel."

"My own personal opinion as a Jew not living in Israel is that I shouldn't take any public positions that could weaken it domestically or internationally," says Musicant, who was in Jerusalem recently as a part of an intensive 10-day seminar for Jewish educators and policy makers sponsored by the Jerusalem-based Center for Advanced Professional Educators (CAPE). "The day I take a political position is the day I become an Israeli citizen."

Still, admits Musicant, no other Western Jewish community has been as passionately pro-Israel as French Jewry, defying media charges of dual loyalty, the government's militantly pro-Arab stance and repeated terrorist attacks. More than 30,000 French Jews visit Israel each year and over a thou-

sand are currently studying at Israeli universities — equal to the number of American Jewish students here, though US Jewry is nearly 10 times larger than France's estimated Jewish population of between 600,000 and 700,000.

NOR IS Musicant prepared to write off the most recent Islamic extremist attacks as marginal to Jewish concerns. French Jews are legitimately worried about the growing trend toward a fundamentalism growing among the five million Moslems living in the country (out of a total of 60 million citizens) — the vast majority of whom are second-generation French citizens. "This is a new kind of Arab terrorism," he says of a recent wave of violence inspired by French ties to Algeria and the resurgent Moslem fundamentalism there, "even if it is organized from abroad, it is executed locally."

To be sure, this, combined with a long tradition of French antisemitism, has given rise to more than a blip on the Jewish anxiety meter. But according to author and Alliance Israelite Universelle representative Ami Bouganim, the threat may be exaggerated. "Antisemitism is just as rooted in the French-Jewish psyche as it is in French society," said Bouganim. "But I think it is exaggerated because French society these days



The rejuvenation of French Jewry is portrayed in this 19th-century lithograph in which Napoleon the Great re-establishes Judaism in France. (Lithograph by Francois-Louis Couché/Courtesy of Beth Haefutsoth)

has bigger problems than the Jews." Yet, he says, the internal debate over criticizing Israeli policies in public provides a rare glimpse into the struggle for French Jewish power and where French Jewry may be headed.

"On the one hand you have the longstanding tradition of the independent-minded French Jewish intellectual," says Bouganim, classically profiled by a deliberate aloofness from the organized Jewish community combined with

an equally passionate engagement with Jewish issues and identity. The image of the secular French Jew discussing Maimonides's *Mishneh Torah* over a ham steak still rings true.

Then there is the venerable Paris Consistoire, the country's main religious organization, a center of moderate Orthodoxy and staunchly, if reflexively, pro-Israel. Actions like the *Le Monde* ad rattle the establishment both on political grounds and for shattering the

illusion that French Jews speak with one voice.

And finally, the public declaration of support for Netanyahu in *Ha'aretz* represents a challenge to the status quo from an increasingly powerful third sector of French Jewry: the maturation of a Sephardi community originally made up of about 200,000 North African Jews who immigrated in the early '60s and who now form a majority of French Jewry. In contrast to their parents' generation, says Bouganim, its emerging activist core of this community is "more Orthodox, prouder of its Jewish identity and more involved in what is going on in Israel. The communal debate is sharper now than in the past because the community itself has changed."

One reason for that increased involvement in Israel is purely demographic. The majority of Sephardi Jews now living in France have Israeli relatives, visit Israel at least once a year and make up the lion's share of the audience that tunes into one of Europe's few Jewish radio stations that broadcasts Israeli news "on the hour." Indeed, they also make up a majority of the French Jews who immigrate to Israel — already the highest proportion to do so every year, according to the Jewish Agency.

"Israel isn't just a Jewish state to them, but the actual home to most of their relatives," says Bouganim.

FRENCH JEWRY also typically resists being categorized in neat little packages, says Bouganim. Dividing French Jews into such shop-worn categories as "affiliated" and "unaffiliated" can actually get in the way of forging successful communal policies for the future. For example, he says, "unaffiliated" does not always mean "indifferent." "There is a whole segment

of French Jewry that firmly believes that the openness of the Jewish community and of French civil society is a value in itself," he said.

Yet for a growing number of newly traditional French Jews, characterized by a growing *ishuva* movement joining forces with an ultra-Orthodox community that now numbers several tens of thousands, French Jewish symbiosis has shown itself to be a thing of the past, a fast track to assimilation (fully half of young Jews intermarry) and a threat to Jewish survival.

But for Bouganim, both sides of the current debate miss the point. On the one hand, probably nowhere else in the West is Jewish identity as visceral among assimilated Jews as in France. Yet that reservoir of identification could dry up if the organized community doesn't find innovative ways of reaching out to the unaffiliated. And any attempts at educational innovation seem stymied by the Orthodox community's rejection of children of intermarriages, who in turn feel alienated and increasingly choose to opt out.

"It all comes down to education," said Bouganim at the end of a week-long marathon of meetings between 13 French Jewish educators and policy makers with Israeli officials under the auspices of the CAPE program. "That's why I consider it a major accomplishment that we were able to sit at the same table and talk without shouting at one another. Maybe now we can begin to find common ground as to what binds us together as a Jewish people, civilization, and religious community."

With French Jewry's penchant for independence, however, Musicant is not holding his breath. "One must always hope," he says with a sigh. "Mustn't one?"

The renaissance of Paris's 'Arab diplomacy'

By ELAD BECK

Since the May 1995 election of Jacques Chirac as president of France, the forgotten expression "France's Arab policy" — referring to the pro-Arab diplomacy carried on by the French governments during the late '60s and '70s — reappeared in the local political and diplomatic jargon. The return to the Elysee Palace of a politician from the neo-Gaullist right-wing republican party, the RPR, after 20 years of absence, and Chirac's declared ambition to play an active role on the international scene, mainly in the Middle East (considered by Paris as a potential zone of intervention because of its geographical proximity) revived the legacy of the French influence in the Arab world.

This legacy was born after the Six Day War, once the late president General Charles de Gaulle decided to put an end to the preferential ties that had existed between France and Israel since 1948. Although De Gaulle was largely responsible for some of the most dramatic and bloody events during the Algerian war of independence, and despite Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser's personal animosity towards him, De Gaulle's post-1967 anti-Israeli positions, the military embargo that he imposed on Israel after two decades of tight cooperation, and his open support to the Palestinian cause, made De Gaulle a hero in the Arab world.

Even though President Chirac, De Gaulle's ideological successor, has on many occasions since his election, reaffirmed the necessity to maintain balanced relations with all the parties in the Middle East, and although he speaks about his country's Arab policy as an element of a larger Middle Eastern and Mediterranean diplomatic vision meant to promote the Arab-Israeli peace process, certain French diplomats and politicians believe that the current political stalemate in the



Jacques Chirac pushes away an Israeli security guard in the middle of a crowd during his October visit here. (Brian Hendler)

Arab-Israeli peace process allows France to aspire to play a greater role in this region.

A recognition of such a role, they say, could be obtained by advocating Arab positions on ways to reach a peace solution, thus counterbalancing US policies — considered pro-Israeli.

Those who defend this pro-Arab vision are also taking advantage of the difficult economic situation in France to reinforce their arguments and position. While the French administration is delivering what seems to be a desperate battle in order to bolster the French economy after half a decade of recession, deepening ties with the Arab markets is a very seducing option. Contracts signed with different Arab capitals in recent months have already enabled France to increase its exports.

At the end of Chirac's visit to the Middle East in October, the

French president surprised the journalists accompanying him by an unprecedented gesture in the history of French politics: with the permission of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Chirac made a domestic policy statement — announcing that his efforts to improve relations with the Arab world have contributed to a balance-of-payments surplus.

WHILE the idea of an "Arab policy" enjoys a certain renaissance in political circles in the French capital, Hubert Vedrine, a former advisor to Chirac's predecessor Francois Mitterrand, throws a shadow on the existence of such a policy. Vedrine recently published a book on Mitterrand's foreign policy, *In The Worlds of Francois Mitterrand*. Vedrine claims that De Gaulle never had any global Arab policy, mainly because during the second half of

the 20th century the Arab world was not homogeneous and there was no unique Arab problem.

The expression "Arab policy," says Vedrine, was used by French diplomats between 1969 and 1981, under presidents Georges Pompidou and Valery Giscard d'Estaing — after De Gaulle left power. The policy instigated a set of commercial practices that were beneficial to both France and Arab states.

Arab leaders hoped that this particular relation with France would automatically bring Paris to condemn Israel, while, according to Vedrine, those leaders themselves expressed the same condemnation with less and less conviction, and were pronouncing contradictory speeches in private discussions. Nevertheless, Vedrine admits that in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a profound pro-Arab tradition exists

and shapes French diplomacy.

In his book, Vedrine stresses that such a realistic approach applies itself specifically to the Middle East.

"I am totally in favour of having close, warm and active relations between France and the Arab states, and also between France and Israel. But, when I hear the global reference to 'France's Arab policy,' I do not understand what it implies. You will note that under De Gaulle, Pompidou, Giscard and Mitterrand, France had very good relations with some Arab countries, and very bad relations with others. Arab states themselves don't always see eye to eye — for example on major issues such as the Gulf war or the peace process. Therefore, France cannot have a global 'Arab policy,' in the same way that no Arab state can have a global Western policy, or that Israel can't have a global Arab policy."

Vedrine thinks that France's role in the Middle East should be reinvented: "It's an Israeli mistake to think that Europe is looking for a role in the Middle East only to acquire cheaper petrol. Europe neighbors the Middle East, and there are historical ties between Israel and many European countries, including France."

ALTHOUGH Vedrine is quite reticent to comment on President Chirac's approach toward the Middle East, he notes that even though Chirac's style is quite different from Mitterrand's, Chirac's Middle East diplomacy seems to be a continuation of that exercised by his socialist predecessor. "Before Mitterrand, nobody spoke to the PLO. Today, when Jacques Chirac goes to Syria, to Israel, and then to the West Bank, when he speaks to the Israelis, to the Palestinians, to the Egyptians and the Jordanians, it resembles Mitterrand's attitude more than the traditional Gaullist approach. However, it is too early to judge, we will have to see how Chirac's policy will develop over a longer period."

Study: Algerians the least strict of France's Moslems

People of Algerian origin are the least observant of France's estimated five million Moslems despite coming from a country locked in a ferocious religious war, a study showed.

The study, released last week by the state INED demographics institute, found 70 percent of French-born sons and 60 percent of French-born daughters of Algerian immigrants either said they carried out no religious practices or considered they had no religion.

The study added that many of the same people did obey basic Moslem religious dietary laws including fasting at Ramadan.

At least two million people of Algerian origin live in France and the integration of their locally-born children, who are French passport holders by birth, is one of the most delicate problems facing French society. Algerian-based Islamic fundamentalist groups claimed responsibility for several bloody bombings in France in 1995 and authorities suspect them of a similar attack in Paris in December which killed four people.

About 40 percent of immigrants now arriving in France are from Africa and 30 percent from Europe including Turkey, with a further 12 percent from Asia, the study said.

Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right National Front party has captured about 15 percent of votes in recent French elections on a platform calling for the expulsion of immigrants from Third World states. (Reuters)

EARTHLY CONCERNS

Grains, geckoes and gall bladders: Victims of Chinese affluence

By DYORA BEN SHAUL

The single greatest threat of extinction that looms over most Asian wildlife is, according to a number of experts in the field, the demands of traditional Chinese medicine. The annual consumption of traditional remedies made of tiger bone, bear gall bladder, rhinoceros horn, dried geckoes and a horde of other animal parts is of phenomenal proportions. It is believed that today at least 60 per cent of China's billion-plus inhabitants use medicines of this type.

Of course Chinese medicine has been around an awfully long time, but it is only recently that

the standard of living has made these remedies available to most people. Only a few decades ago a poor Chinese farmer or laborer would have to sell almost all he had and even go into debt in order to purchase medicines for an ailing family member, but today millions buy these products over the counter without any compunction.

If one wants to look for an example of rapid agricultural improvement and a rise in the standard of living at unprecedented rates then one would have to take modern China as an example par excellence. Between the beginning of agricultural reforms in 1978 and 1985, grain production in China rose from 200 million tons to more than 300 million

tons, putting China ahead of the United States as a grain-producing country.

The standard of living has also been rising steadily and subsistence levels for grain have gone from 100 kilograms per year to 300. But now, with no further rises in productivity seen in the near future, China, even with almost draconian population expansion controls, still adds 14 million people per year. This means that between 1990 and 2030 the population of China is expected to increase by 490 million, swelling its already vast population to 1.6 billion.

But not only have the Chinese improved agriculture, the general income level has risen by 40 per cent between 1991 and 1994, an

unprecedented rise in living standards for such a large number of people. And as incomes go up, so does the demand for a more varied diet.

And while once subsisting on an almost sole diet of grains, today the average Chinese consumes almost as much pork as do North Americans, and still using large amounts of grain for this purpose along the way. Whereas in 1978 only 7 percent of the grain produced was used for animal food, in 1990 that figure had risen to just over 20 percent and is still rising.

The Chinese, now more affluent, are also acquiring a taste for beef, poultry, fish, eggs and milk. It takes 2 kilograms of grain to produce a kilogram of poultry or

pond fish, 4 kilograms per kilo for pork and seven for feed-lot beef.

Since China has almost no suitable grazing lands, almost all beef is feed-lot beef. Beer and spirits are also more in demand than ever before and to provide just one more bottle of beer per year for each person in China would cost 370,000 tons of grain.

It is no wonder then that this newly affluent population has had a great effect on wildlife population. Tigers, one of the most prized medicine resources, are so nearly extinct that authorities wonder if they will survive at all.

There are only about 5,000 tigers left in all Asia and a dozen

or more are killed by poachers every month. Dried geckoes are also a popular remedy, said to ensure the birth of a male child. (And in China, with its one-child policy, almost every couple is a potential customer.)

Some efforts have been made to cure the poaching of endangered species but the prices these animal parts bring makes poachers willing to accept very high risks. In a few cases farms have been set up to grow geckoes for the market and bears are kept alive with a cannula inserted into their gall bladders to get repeated doses of bear bile.

But by and large, the traditional medicines are based on the slaughter of Asian and sometimes African wildlife.



Money and the gecko: China's new affluence may turn this fellow into powder.

BUSINESS

in brief

Brodet out, Slavin in at Treasury



Samuel Slavin

Treasury director-general David Brodet announced his resignation yesterday, after two years in the post. Brodet, who will leave at the end of March, told former finance minister Avraham Shohat of his intention to resign prior to the election. The current minister, Dan Meridor, said he asked Brodet to reconsider. Brodet will be replaced by Mifal Hapayis managing director Shmuel Slavin. A long-time Likud party activist, Slavin served three years as Labor and Social Affairs Ministry director-general.

David Harris

Magal raises \$11m. at Nasdaq offering

Magal Security Systems Ltd., a Yehud-based maker of computerized detection devices, raised \$11 million in a secondary offering on Friday on the Nasdaq over-the-counter exchange. The company sold two million shares at \$5.50. An underwriting group led by Josephthal Lyon & Ross conducted the sale. Magal president Izhar Dekel said it will be used to finance the purchase of two security systems units of Daimler-Benz AG's aerospace division. In January, Magal agreed to pay \$5.1m. for Sensar Corp., a Canadian company that makes intrusion detection systems, and Daimler's Dornier GmbH unit, which produces civilian security products. The rest of the money will go toward further acquisitions and research and development, Dekel said. On Friday, Magal's shares closed at \$5.875, down four percent from \$6.125 on Thursday. Analysts said the offering was successful and that the drop in share price is not significant.

Jennifer Friedlin

Ispar to set up TV studio for PA

Sony's Israel representative, Ispar, has signed a NIS 1 million deal with the Palestinian Authority for the establishment of a TV studio at the El-Aroub University near Hebron. The facility will serve communications students at the university and contain three video cameras, a switching device, digital effects machinery and sound mixer, all of them made by Sony. Additional equipment will allow subtitling and editing, as well as electronic news gathering. A second studio will be built later at Dir El-Balah in the Gaza district.

Judy Siegel

Provident funds yield 2.5% in January

The commercial banks' provident funds achieved average real yields of about 2.5 percent in January, reflecting the improvement in the stock market. Last year the funds reported returns of 0%-1%. Bank Hapoalim's Gadish fund achieved a real yield of 2.8% in January. Gadish is the largest fund in the country, with assets of NIS 12.38b. Mizrahi Bank's Atid fund reported a real yield of 2.2%, while First International Bank's Ha'shefa fund reported a real yield of 2.09%. Bank Leumi and Bank Discount are expected to publish their funds yields today.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Infrastructure Ministry, Treasury seek separate sell-off of trains, rails

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel's rail operations will be split into two separate companies, one to be publicly held and deal with infrastructure, the other to be private and provide services, according to a Treasury-National Infrastructure Ministry plan that is pending Knesset approval.

According to the plan, agreed upon by the two ministries over the weekend and unveiled yesterday by the Infrastructure Ministry, the Ports and Railways Authority's rail and maritime functions will be separated first. That would be followed by the new railway body's overseeing the break-up of Israel Railways itself, the state company which runs rail transportation.

Based on the British model, one company will be responsible for rail infrastructure and the other operating services. At a later stage individual tenders could be offered for each train service.

The infrastructure company is likely to stay in government

hands, according to an aide of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. "It will either become a state company or a government subsidiary."

The government would consider either a public flotation of 30 percent to 40% of the firm on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange or a private sale.

The trains, both passenger and freight, would be run by a wholly privatized company.

"In many states, notably excluding the US, the state subsidizes the infrastructure," said the aide. "This is something companies look for before they will invest in the trains."

The privatization process, though, is secondary, according to the aide.

"The key is re-organizing the structure," Treasury budget director Ran Kroll said. "Privatization can come immediately after legislation."

It is expected the enabling bill will be presented to the Knesset within the next few months, with

the legislation process taking some two to three months.

Kroll and National Infrastructure Ministry director-general Giora Rom also agreed on a railways budget of NIS 300 million for 1997, and over the next fortnight will discuss a multi-year spending program, both of which will be presented to the cabinet late this month or in March.

Much of this year's budget is already allocated for ongoing projects approved last year by the National Infrastructure Ministry and Ports and Railways Authority. Projects that will be ongoing through the year include work on the Rishon LeZion to Tel Aviv line, the doubling of the track from Tel Aviv to Lod and Ramle and also on the coastal route between Binyamina and Haifa.

Other developments Sharon would like to see implemented during this and the remaining years of the government include:

*Upgrading the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem service, either with a new line running alongside the

Route 1 Highway or the now more-favored improvement of the existing line, reducing the journey time to less than an hour.

A third option, to construct a line parallel to the planned Route 45 Highway, which would leave Jerusalem northwards, passing Givat Ze'ev and Hashmonaim, this stretch being across the Green Line, seems to have been largely discarded in government circles.

"The extension of the newly operational Tel Aviv-Beersheba line as far south as Eilat."

"The possible construction of two new train lines between Israel and Jordan - between Haifa and Mafrak, and from Eilat to Aqaba. In addition to the southern border route, a line would be built northwards to Sodom."

This would open up both freight exports and imports, together with encouraging tourists into the Arava and Dead Sea areas.

The ministries are asking for the line to be built across the border, giving Israel and Jordan dual control.

"Two lines between Gaza and the West Bank, and operating a service between the Erez crossing point to Gaza and the port of Ashdod. Sharon has also indicated he is in favor of a line from Gaza to Kalkiya being extended into Jordan."

"The long-term options of extending the coastal route train line north of Nahariya and constructing a line to Tiberias."

"The structural change will not affect the development of Israel's railways," Kroll said.

Arrangements for what the aide called "the year of train development" are being largely coordinated without substantive input from the Transport Ministry.

Since the creation of Sharon's "super-ministry" the Transport Ministry has only had responsibility for urban train development. "It seems odd to me. This was all decided before I became transport minister," said Yitzhak Levy late last year. "It does seem strange, but then again there are many strange things in Israel."

Dankner joins Arison in Bank Hapoalim bid

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Dankner Group announced yesterday it has joined the Arison consortium in its bid for control of Bank Hapoalim.

The Arison consortium, which is headed by businessman Ted Arison, is competing against a group headed by US businessman Jeffrey Keil for control of the bank. The sale is in the framework of the government's privatization program.

The Arison consortium is made up of US and local investors. Dankner Group representative Nochi Dankner said. He refused to reveal the group's share in the consortium, adding it is not yet clear through which subsidiary or subsidiaries Dankner will participate in the bid.

Dankner is one of the country's leading privately-owned concerns, with investments in the energy, chemical, petrochemical, real estate, and telecommunications fields.

"Everything was concluded very quickly," Dankner said. "We only entered negotiations three weeks ago."

In recent weeks Arison has negotiated with local and US investors in an attempt to consolidate a consortium to bid for Bank Hapoalim. Among others, Arison reportedly negotiated with businessmen Moti Zisser and Eitan Wertheimer, as well as with a US investment bank.

This week Arison intends to present his group before Meir Yacobson, general manager of MI Holdings, the government firm in charge of selling the state's banks.

Arison had initially bid for Hapoalim with the Claridge group until the group dropped out last June.

The Keil consortium is interested in purchasing a 35-percent stake in the bank and an option to buy additional shares in the future. The Bank of Israel is currently considering the consortium's eligibility for the bid.

H&Q head: Fewer Israeli IPOs, more mergers in '97

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Fewer IPOs of Israeli companies on the Nasdaq market are expected this year compared with 1996, but the number of merger transactions is expected to grow. H&Q President and CEO Daniel Case said yesterday.

H&Q, the leading US investment bank, recently invested \$2 million in the Tel Aviv-based Tamir Fishman & Co., turning the relatively new full-service investment bank into its exclusive representative and strategic partner here.

H&Q is among the four leading banks in the growth and technology fields worldwide.

Last year it raised \$9 billion in 145 equity transactions and advised on 52 mergers and acquisition transactions with a value of \$5.5b.

This year will be good for IPOs of Israeli companies on Nasdaq but not as great as 1996, when there were a record number of offerings, Case said. He explained that many of the companies prepared to go public already did last year and that company valuations are lower.

"Valuations are excellent but not as high [as before] in certain areas," he said. According to the strategic

cooperation agreement, H&Q will control 33 percent of Tamir Fishman, and the remaining 67% of the shares will be equally divided between Eldad Tamir and Danny Fishman, the company's joint managers.

Tamir Fishman was established last December as a full-service investment bank, venture capital and financial consulting company. It was founded by Tamir, formerly president & CEO of Evergreen, and Fishman - who was previously managing director at YLR Investment Management.

Emphasizing that H&Q's long-term plans are very ambitious, Tamir said Tamir Fishman will turn into "the best independent investment bank in Israel."

It will focus its activities on investment banking transactions for growth companies in the technology, biotechnology, healthcare and new brand creation sectors and on financing both private and public offerings here and abroad. The company also intends to take part in the government's privatization program.

H&Q investment in Israel comes several months after its competitors entered the market. Last year, Lehman Brothers, Smith Barney and Salomon

Brothers opened branches here, while Robertson, Stephens Alex Brown and Montgomery Securities appointed local representatives.

However, unlike its competitors, H&Q's interest and activity here goes back two decades, to Elscint's IPO. More recently H&Q was active in Tecnomat, Opal, M-Systems and Mercury's IPOs.

H&Q, founded in 1968, is a full-service investment bank focused on growth companies, especially in the technology field.

The company has its headquarters in San Francisco, principal offices in New York and Boston, as well as offices in Europe, Asia and Southern California.

The group, which was registered for trading on the Nasdaq last year, has a market value of about \$600m.

H&Q has recently formed strategic partnerships in Europe with Financiere Saint Dominique, a leading French private equity firm, and with Beeson Gregory, a leading UK brokerage and financial adviser.

Last year, the group established H&Q Saint Dominique, an investment bank based in Paris which focuses on Europe's new emerging growth stock markets.

Ports and Railways Authority

Computerized Maintenance Management System

Tender No. 11/5895/4/96-2

- Further to its obligation deriving from the International GATT agreement regarding government purchases, the Ports & Railways Authority hereby requests submission of bids for the supply, customizing and installation of a Computerized Maintenance Management System for the Authority's maintenance system.
- The prerequisites for participating in the tender are as follows:
 - The bidder is not participating in the tender for Project Management and Implementation of the PRA Computerized Maintenance Management System - Tender No. 11/5895/4/96-1
 - The bidders financial turnover in 1995 exceeded NIS 6 million (Excluding VAT)
 - The bidder is a company that has been operating in the information systems field for the past three years.
 - The bidder has previous experience in implementing at least 2 projects with similar systems.
 - Compliance with Technical Specifications clauses marked "M"
 - Obligatory participation in the supplier's meeting to be held on March 3, 1997, at 09:00 a.m. in the PRA offices at 74 Petach Tikva Road, Tel Aviv, 6th floor, conference room.
 - The bidder will attach a bank guarantee for fulfilling the bid in the amount of NIS 150,000, linked to the CPI of December 1996 (143.1 points), which will be valid until September 30, 1997.
 - The bidder will attach to its bid all the required certificates in accordance with the Public Bodies Transactions (enforcement of bookkeeping and payment of tax debts) Law 1976.
- Queries can be referred prior to the suppliers' meeting to Mr. David Shaked, Fax: 03-5617143. Answers will be provided to all participants during the suppliers' meeting.
- The tender documents can be purchased from the Purchasing Division, Ports and Railways Authority, 74 Petach Tikva Road, 11th Floor, Room 1103, for the non-refundable sum of NIS 1,170 (including VAT).
A list of threshold technical requirements marked "M" in the Technical Specifications can be received free of charge by applying to Fax No. 03-5616027.
- The technical bid should be submitted according to the Computerized Systems Development and Maintenance Framework (MAFTEAH) procedure in 8 copies.
- The proposal should be submitted in a sealed envelope that is separate from the technical bid and should be placed in the tender box, located at the address specified in paragraph 4 above.
- The final date for submission of bids is April 7, 1997 at 14:00 hours.
- The Ports and Railways Authority does not undertake to accept the least expensive bid, or any other bid. The Authority retains the right to negotiate with the Bidder/s whose bids are found suitable.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign-currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.275
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.100	4.350
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (7.2.97)

Currency	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep.
Currency basket	3.5929	3.6509		3.6309
U.S. dollar	3.2915	3.3446	3.25	3.3260
German mark	1.9820	2.0140	1.94	2.0051
Pound sterling	5.3772	5.4840	5.28	5.4324
French franc	0.5874	0.5889	0.57	0.5811
Japanese yen (100)	2.6480	2.6818	2.60	2.6770
Dutch guilder	1.7648	1.7908	1.73	1.7855
Swiss franc	2.2829	2.3288	2.25	2.3218
Swedish krona	0.4438	0.4511	0.43	0.4487
Norwegian krona	0.5065	0.5137	0.49	0.5115
Danish krone	0.5194	0.5278	0.51	0.5255
Finnish mark	0.5885	0.5970	0.58	0.5761
Canadian dollar	2.4385	2.4788	2.39	2.4607
Australian dollar	2.5080	2.5488	2.46	2.5346
S. African rand	0.7400	0.7520	0.67	0.7480
Belgian franc (10)	0.5908	0.5973	0.58	0.5717
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8188	2.8628	2.78	2.8468
Italian lira (1000)	2.0177	2.0508	1.96	2.0410
Jordanian dinar	4.5900	4.6800	4.58	4.7228
Egyptian pound	0.9400	1.0200	0.84	1.0144
ECU	3.85348	3.9158	—	3.8979
Irish punt	5.2648	5.3498	5.17	5.2198
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2418	2.2798	2.20	2.2683

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 6.2.97	Date: 6.2.97
Purchase Price: 115.87	Purchase Price: 164.51
Redemption Price: 114.37	Redemption Price: 162.15
leumi pia מניין	leumi pia מניין

WATER IS PRECIOUS! SAVE EVERY DROP!

Bnei Herzliya pulls off season's best comeback

By ELI GRONER

Bnei Herzliya pulled off the most incredible comeback of the season to date, overcoming a 24 point deficit against Ramat Gan in the 14th round of National Basketball League action last night.

Elsewhere, Hapoel Tel Aviv upset Hapoel Jerusalem, Eilat got an important victory over Galil Elyon, Rishon edged Givat Shmuel, and Maccabi Tel Aviv thrashed Ra'anana.

Bnei Herzliya 80 Mac. RG 76
A Lior Arditi three-pointer capped an amazing comeback that saw Herzliya overcome a 24 point deficit with 12 minutes to play. While Arditi (21 points) was his usual steady self, Terrence Stansbury (30) and Gilad Simchoni (12) sparked the incredible run.

Uri Cohen-Mintz and Roy Fisher tallied 19 apiece for Ramat Gan. Hap. Tel Aviv 81 Hap. J'lem 76
Jerusalem continued its season-long Jeckyl & Hyde showing by giving a mediocre, uninspired performance at Ussishkin Stadium. Tel Aviv's first win since December 1 dropped Jerusalem into fourth place.

Down by just one point, 77-76 with 12 seconds remaining, Doron Shefa committed a flagrant foul sealing Jerusalem's fate.

Vicky Revah scored 21 points for the victors. Billy Thompson paced all scorers with 27.

Hap. Eilat 75, Galil Elyon 71
A strong final two-and-a-half minutes by the hosts enabled the southerners to pull out their fourth consecutive win. The victory put Eilat in the thick of the race for second place in the standings.

Despite falling behind 9-1 early, Moshe Weinkrantz's club main-

tained its composure and quickly grabbed the lead. Amir Katz was instrumental in the run, providing deadly shooting accuracy (20 first-half points, 26 overall), complementing the inside duo of Joe Dawson and James Forrest. A Dawson put-back gave Eilat a 46-39 halftime advantage.

The southerners continued their solid play into the second half, and led at one point by 15 points. After weathering a strong Galil run, Corey Gaines (16 points) calmed the club and provided stability down the stretch.

Rishon 98 Givat Shmuel 91 (OT)
Givat Shmuel ran out of gas in the extra session, and after Gerald Paddio fouled out, Rishon's road win was a fait accompli.

It appeared that Rishon would fall into the league's cellar, but Alex Nikolitz nailed a baseline jumper at the regulation buzzer sending the game into overtime.

Moshe Brenner, James Gully and Ladell Eackles tallied 22 points apiece for the victors. Paddio and Dennis Hopson scored 30 and 22, respectively.

Mac. TA 107 Mac. Ra'anana 79

The class of the league had no problems picking up its 13th consecutive victory, as it continued its drive to the championship.

National Basketball League

Maccabi Tel Aviv	13	0	26
Galil Elyon	7	6	20
Hap. Eilat	7	8	20
Hap. Jerusalem	7	7	19
Mac. Ra'anana	6	7	19
Bnei Herzliya	6	7	19
Mac. Ramat Gan	6	7	19
Givat Shmuel	5	8	18
Mac. Rishon	5	7	17
Hap. Tel Aviv	4	9	17
Hap. Holon	4	8	16

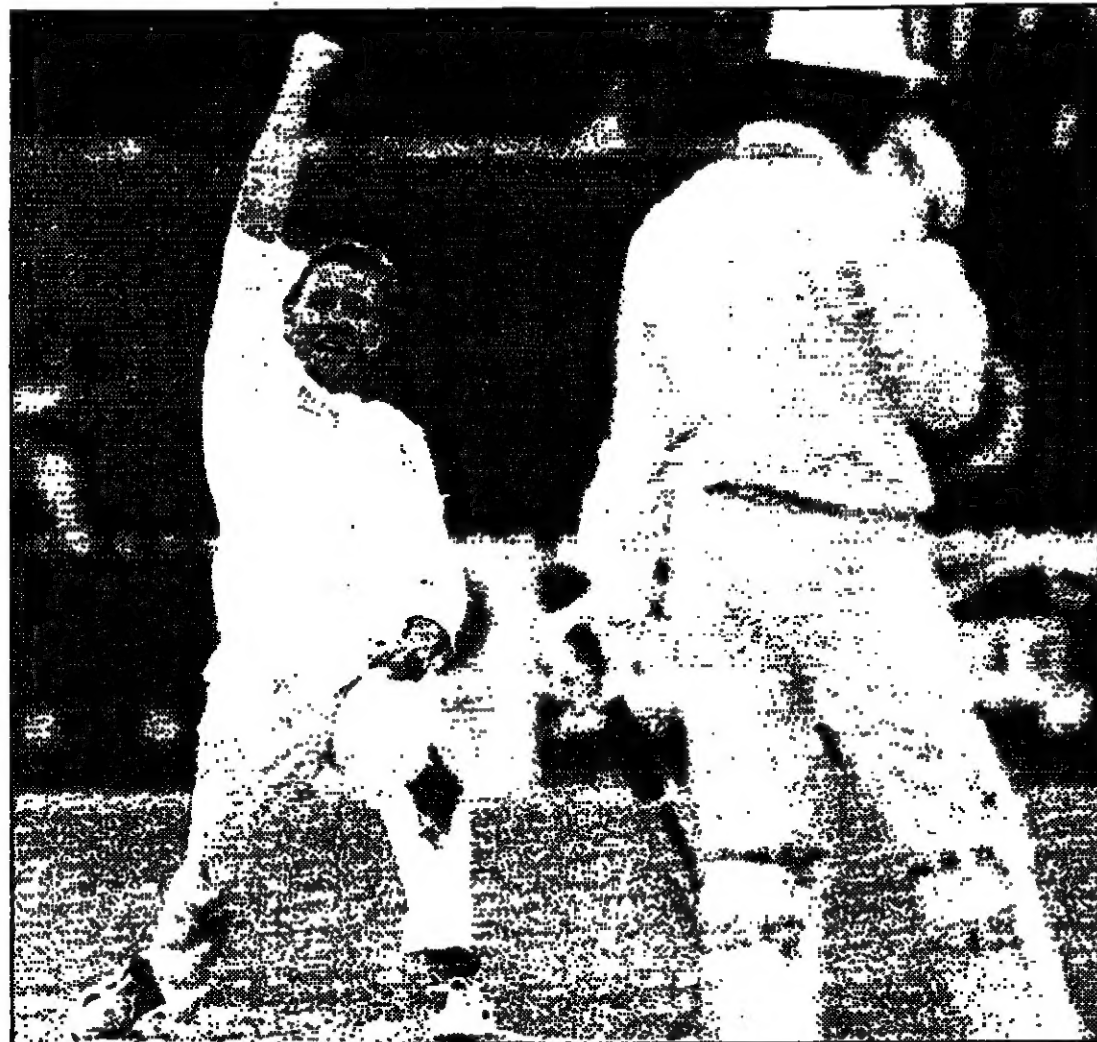
Aussies dump France out of Davis Cup

NEW YORK (AP) — Australia is making a habit of knocking off the defending Davis Cup champions. For the second time in five years, Australia upset the defending champs on home soil in the first round, getting a doubles victory from the top-ranked "Woodies" Saturday to eliminate France 3-0 and advance to the World Group quarterfinals.

In 1993, the Americans were defending champions and travelled

to Australia, only to get ousted 4-1. In Brazil, Jim Courier nearly lost his cool in 39 degree C heat but he still managed to defeat Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten in four sets and take the United States to the next round. Jan Siemerink outlasted Romania's Adrian Panu, and Paul Haarhuis crushed his opponents Sunday to give the Netherlands a come-from-behind 3-2 win in Bucharest.

In Prague, the Czech Republic beat India 3-2.



England spinner Robert Croft celebrates after dismissing New Zealand's Dipak Patel yesterday. (Reuters)

England has Kiwis on ropes despite rain

WELLINGTON (Reuters) — England need to take six wickets on the final day today to win the second cricket Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve.

At stumps on the fourth day yesterday, New Zealand were 125 for four, with play shortened by morning drizzle to 48 overs, after resuming on 48 without loss.

Three wickets fell at the day's closing score to offspinner Robert Croft.

New Zealand have no chance of winning the Test and, as in the drawn first Test in Auckland, they are left to bat out the final day to deny England victory.

Opener Blair Pocock had batted over four-and-a-half hours to be on 45 at stumps while captain Lee Germann had yet to score.

England led by 259 on the first innings, after being dismissed on

Saturday afternoon for 383.

After New Zealand's opening pair, Bryan Young and Pocock, had put on 89 for the first wicket, three wickets fell at 125 without the addition of a run in the final half hour.

Young edged left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell to wicketkeeper Alec Stewart after making 56, and Pocock and Adam Parore added 36 runs for the second wicket.

However, Croft then ripped through the top half of New Zealand's innings, taking three wickets in the space of 14 deliveries.

Parore was trapped leg before wicket, Stephen Fleming hit out and Croft took the third wicket.

Then, nightwatchman Dipak Patel was also leg before wicket, failing to play a shot.

Second nightwatchman Germann

was lucky not to be the third lbw victim shouldering arms.

By the close Croft had taken three for 12 in 16 overs, while Tufnell had taken one for 18 from 19 overs.

Further showers are forecast for the last day today and only rain or another desperate rearguard batting display as in the first Test can save the Kiwis from going one down in the three-match series.

New Zealand, 1st Innings 124	
England, 1st Innings 383	
New Zealand, 2nd Innings	
B. POCCOCK not out	45
B. YOUNG c Stewart b Tufnell	56
A. PARORE lbw b Croft	15
S. FLEMING c and b Croft	0
D. PATEL b b Croft	0
L. GERMAN not out	0
Extras (4th, 4th, 1b)	9
TOTAL (Overs 73, 125 for 4 wickets)	125
Fall of wickets: 89, 125, 125, 125	
Bowling: Dominic Cork 8-1-34-0 (1nb), Andrew Caddick 16-7-25-0, Robert Croft 18-5-12-3 (1nb), Darren Gough 14-7-31-0, Phil Tufnell 19-8-18-1 (2nb).	

SPORTS

in brief

Pankratov sets another world record

PARIS (AP) — Russia's Denis Pankratov broke his fourth short-course swimming world record in nine days clocking 51.78 seconds in the 100-meter butterfly in a World Cup meet yesterday.

The two-time Olympic champion set the previous 100-butterfly record of 51.93 in the 25-meter pool Wednesday at Imperia, Italy. On Saturday, Pankratov did 23.35 in the 50-meter butterfly. He established a short-course 200-butterfly record of 1 minute, 52.64 seconds last Saturday at Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Pankratov is the first person to hold three short-course and two long course world records. He has the 100 and 200 m

Tendulkar ton puts India in triangular final

BENONI, South Africa (Reuters) — Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar struck his 11th one-day century yesterday as his side defeated Zimbabwe by six wickets to clinch a place in the final of the triangular tournament against hosts South Africa. Tendulkar's hundred inspired the Indians to 241 for four off 39.2 overs to overhaul Zimbabwe's 240 for eight from 50 overs including 86 from their captain Alistair Campbell.

Starting the match with an inferior run rate to Zimbabwe, India needed to score their runs in 40.5 overs to reach Wednesday's final against South Africa in Durban.

Thanks to Tendulkar's century, and an unbeaten 56 from 66 balls from Ajay Jadeja, they got there with nine balls to spare and ousted Zimbabwe by 0.05 of a run on net run rate.

'Prince' Naseem stops Johnson to unify titles

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's "Prince" Naseem Hamed stopped American Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson in the eighth round to unify two featherweight world titles on Saturday. American referee Rudy Battle stopped the fight after Naseem, the WBO champion, unleashed a ferocious onslaught from all angles culminating in a right uppercut which left Johnson, the IBF titleholder, unable to get up off the canvas.

Steve "Celtic Warrior" Collins retained his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight crown for the sixth time on Saturday, stopping Frenchman Frederic Sellier in the fifth round.

Compagnoni wins world giant slalom

SESTRIERE, Italy (AP) — Italian Deborah Compagnoni won yesterday's giant slalom in the World Alpine Ski Championships to claim her fifth gold medal in the Olympics or worlds and her second gold in the two-week world championships.

Compagnoni, Italy's best woman skier in history and now a rival of slalom star Alberto Tomba for national stardom, clocked at combined time for the two runs of 2 minutes 39.19 seconds. The victory makes Compagnoni, 26, only the fourth woman in the 60-year history of the championships to win back-to-back.

Gostamelsky, Halika set new swim marks

By HEATHER CHAIT

Anya Gostamelsky and Mickey Halika both cracked national records on the last day of the World Cup short-course swimming competition in Paris yesterday. Gostamelsky, swimming in the 50m butterfly, finished sixth, clocking in at 28:52 and knocking three-hundredths of a second off the previous record.

Halika also took sixth place in the 200m individual medley, with a time of 2:02:80, six-hundredths of a second better than Yoav Bruck's record.

Bruck, who gained his first medal in the competition on Saturday, finished fifth in the 50m freestyle final, in 22:58.

Eran Garumi swam the 100m butterfly in a time of 54:02 which left him in fourth place behind the new world record of 51:78 set by Russia's Denis Pankratov.

In the 100m butterfly, Gostamelsky was also eighth with a time of 1:04:63.

Bruck improved his time in the heats of the 100m freestyle of 49:66 to 49:21 in the final, which gave him the bronze medal. First was Romania's Ivan Nikolai with 49:15.

Halika took fourth place in the 400m individual medley with a time of 4:16:77.

In the 50m butterfly, Dan Kuler's heats time was 24:00 but he weakened to 24:63 in the final, taking fifth place. Garumi's time in the heats was 25:08.

Kobe Bryant wins All-Star slam dunk

CLEVELAND (Reuters) — Teenager Kobe Bryant fulfilled a childhood dream on Saturday by winning the NBA All-Star weekend Slam Dunk Contest.

Bryant, who spurned college to enter the NBA at 18 years old, executed a through-the-leg dunk, moving from left to right for a final-round score of 49, easily outpointing Michael Finley and Chris Carr.

The biggest cheer of the event came on an attempt that missed by Finley, who bounced the ball and did a cartwheel before catching it and taking it to the rim.

Steve Kerr earned the title of best shooter in the NBA by gunning down defending champion Tim Legler 22-18 in the finals of the Long Distance Shootout.

Kerr, who holds the record for the best three-point shooting percentage in a season, had never finished better than third in three previous appearances in the special event.

But the Chicago Bulls reserve guard amassed a three-round total of 58, including a closing 22 that matched the second-best final round in the 12-year history of the event.

In the Rookies game, the East beat the West 96-91.

Bowman earns 1,000th NHL coaching win

PITTSBURGH (Reuters) — Detroit Red Wings coach Scotty Bowman on Saturday became the first coach in National Hockey League history to record 1,000 regular season career victories.

Bowman reached the unprecedented milestone against one of his former clubs when Brendan Shanahan scored two minutes into overtime to lift the Red Wings to a 6-5 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Bowman coached the Penguins to a Stanley Cup championship in 1991-92.

In a legendary 25-year NHL coaching career with St. Louis, Montreal, Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Detroit, the 63-year-old Bowman has compiled an all-

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER — Division One result yesterday: Sheffield United 2 Norwich 3.

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Karnit head released on NIS 1m. bail

Attorney Michael Zeltner, who is suspected of concealing over NIS 1 million of his income from the Income Tax Authority, was released on NIS 1m. bail yesterday. The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court also demanded a half-million shekel guarantee from a third party and a NIS 300,000 bank guarantee and barred Zeltner from leaving the country.

According to the third annual Public Bodies Salaries Report released last month, Zeltner, managing-director of Karnit (the government company responsible for compensating uninsured road accident victims or victims of hit-and-run accidents), is the state's highest paid employee, with a monthly salary of NIS 67,000.

Zeltner, 59, of Tel Aviv, also is the Avner insurance company's legal adviser on injuries and damages from road accidents. However, according to tax investigator Yosef Sbiro, Zeltner also served as a consultant to other insurance companies and lawyers and was a board member of several public companies, but did not

report these earnings to the Income Tax Authority.

He also is charged with not reporting hundreds of thousands



Michael Zeltner
(Dan Ossendyver/Israel Sun)

of shekels he earned from renting out apartments and houses between 1990 and 1995.

Zeltner also is suspected of falsifying documents so that he could get a tax deduction. (Iim)

Channel 2 gets new transmitter

By HELEN KAYE

Channel 2's state-of-the-art, 30 KW transmitter at Eitanim officially began broadcasting yesterday on channel 22. It joins the recently inaugurated smaller transmitters at Tefen and atop Haifa's Carmel Government Hospital. The new transmitter's range goes from Zichron Ya'akov in the north to the outskirts of Gaza in the south and up to the western reaches of Jerusalem.

"As far as we know, this is the largest and most modern transmitter in the Middle East," Second Television and Radio Authority senior engineer Ehud Ben-Dor said. "The only major population areas remaining unlinked are northern Jerusalem and Lower Galilee, and we expect these to come into the network by the end of the year."

The new transmitter is equipped with IOT (inductive

output tube) technology which boosts broadcast ability and efficiency, thereby cutting down on energy costs. IOT also means more stability in the frequency and power output.

STRA intends to replace the 5 KW transmitter at Tefen with another 30 KW system which will serve most of Haifa and Galilee. Lower Galilee will be served by a 5 KW transmitter at Turan near the Golan Junction.

Northern Jerusalem will come into the fold in three to four months with a 400 W transmitter at Tel el-Ful.

Haifa's topography makes reception problematic, so the Hadar and the lower city up to Bat Galim and environs also will get their own 400 W transmitter on top of the Dan Panorama.

STRA's network is basically on schedule, Ben-Dor said, with only minor glitches over the necessary construction permits reported.

Begin: My father never knew Sharon planned to reach Beirut

Likud MK Ze'ev Begin, testifying yesterday for the defense in National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's libel trial against Ha'aretz reporter Uzi Benziman, stuck to his previous testimony that his father did not know of Sharon's intentions to take Operation Peace for Galilee as far as Beirut.

He said that his father, former prime minister Menachem Begin, told him, "It's inconceivable that Arik [Sharon] planned to get to Beirut from the beginning" of the operation.

The libel suit by Sharon was filed last year against Ha'aretz and its reporter, Uzi Benziman, who in May 1991 wrote that

Begin knew that Sharon had lied to him.

Begin also testified that he found a passage in a transcript of a lecture by Sharon at Tel Aviv University in which Sharon explained that one can learn from the cabinet statement issued at the beginning of the war that Beirut was an initial objective of the war.

"I showed it to my father," Begin testified, "and my father was astonished at this understanding of the matter. He said that in doing so, Mr. Sharon had post facto widened the goals of

the operation, without foundation.

"He reminded me of the fact that he told the leaders of the opposition, the Knesset plenum, and even the US president about the limited goals of the operation, and asked me rhetorically: 'If this is the case, did I mislead them in my statements?' He was very angry, and said several times: 'These things are baseless.'"

Begin testified for about an hour, during which time Sharon lawyer Dov Weissglass tried unsuccessfully to convince him to retract part of his testimony.

Sharon was also present at the hearing. (Iim)



Ze'ev Begin



Ariel Sharon



Reuma Weizman, the president's wife, visits a school in Ramle yesterday. She went to Ramle to offer support to the family of a seven-year-old girl who was raped last week. (Shai Adati)

Reuma Weizman visits parents of child rape victim

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The parents of a seven-year-old girl who was raped last week left their Ramle home yesterday for the first time since the incident to

meet with Reuma Weizman, the president's wife.

Weizman, who decided to visit Ramle and see for herself how the municipal services were dealing with the case, spoke to the parents for half an hour. She also brought them a donation from the Beit Hanassi Fund, to help tide them over the difficult period.

Police on Thursday arrested a 13-year-old Ramle youth suspected of the rape. He was remanded for five days on Friday by the Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court. Welfare workers said later the

visit could be a key factor in getting the family back on its feet. The parents, who are self-employed, stopped working after their daughter's rape and the burden of economic problems was compounding the trauma which the family suffered, Weizman said. The mother of the girl has reportedly threatened to commit suicide.

"I encouraged them to return to work," Weizman said afterwards. "I stressed how important it is for them to go back to their routine and that they owe this also to the other children in the family."

Weizman also met with the two other children who witnessed the traumatic incident, who have meanwhile returned to school. She stressed that all the authorities involved are doing excellent work to help them. "Unfortunately, because the identities of the children have to be kept secret, they are not able to benefit from the outpouring of good will which the citizens of Ramle are ready to heap on them," she said.

"It is pure coincidence that there were two incidents of this type in Ramle and it is important that the

town should not be stigmatized," said Weizman. She said Ramle is an example of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs, noting that some of the children study in mixed schools.

The municipality has also succeeded in integrating large numbers of immigrants, she noted. But, Weizman said, there is room for further youth clubs and afternoon activities for children and she intends to approach the relevant authorities to organize additional after-school programs for the children.

High Court: Bereaved parents must first try IDF sources for information on son's death

By EVELYN GORDON

Bereaved parents who want information about their son's death must first try the channel the IDF has offered them, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

It was hearing a petition by Avinoam and Ruth Mor-Haim,

whose son, Dvir, was killed in Lebanon in a "friendly-fire" incident in 1993. The Mor-Haims had requested a new investigation into the incident, charging that the original board of inquiry did only a cursory job and ignored many relevant questions. The petition also charged that the board issued two reports — one

official and one secret — which contradicted each other in places, and asked that the IDF be forced to give the Mor-Haims all the material it collected.

At a hearing a few months ago, the Mor-Haims agreed to a court suggestion to appoint an outside investigator, but the IDF refused. Instead, it said, it would permit

the Mor-Haims to question the original investigatory team, the chief paratroop and infantry officer, or any other serving infantry officer requested by the parents.

At yesterday's hearing, the Mor-Haims strongly objected to this idea. Their lawyer, Shlomo Zippori, said they no longer trust the army to give them straight answers, and therefore want an outside investigator.

"We've been negotiating for four years," testified Ruth Mor-Haim emotionally. "We've submitted questions, and gotten answers that don't match the information we already have. How much longer is it possible to wait? We're not interested in getting anyone put on trial. Mistakes happen," she added. "And we're not against the army. We're for the army. But please, stop these games!"

As an example of the army's unreliability, she pointed to the state's response to the petition, in which it talked about an autopsy having been done on Dvir. The Mor-Haims said they had previously been told that no autopsy was done. Questioned by the court, government attorney Shai Nitzan said there had been a mistake in the state's response, what was performed was an external pathological exam, and not an autopsy.

"In such a sensitive matter, isn't it possible to avoid mistakes like this?" demanded Justice Eliezer Goldberg. "Couldn't you be careful?"

In the end, however, he and Justices Aharon Barak and Michael Cheshin decided that the Mor-Haims should try the army's suggestion, and report back to the court in a month if they have not gotten satisfaction.

Ports and Railways Authority

Project Management and Implementation of the PRA Computerized Maintenance Management System

Tender No. 11/5895/4/96-1

- Further to its obligation deriving from the International GATT agreement regarding government purchases, the Ports & Railways Authority hereby requests submission of bids for the Project Management and Implementation of a Computerized Maintenance Management System for the Authority's maintenance system.
- The prerequisites for participating in the tender are as follows:
 - The bidder is not participating in the tender for Computerized Maintenance Management System - Tender No. 11/5895/4/96-2
 - The bidders financial turnover in 1995 exceeded NIS 4 million (Excluding VAT)
 - The number of company personnel operating in computer software development, industrial engineering and management consultancy fields exceeds 15.
 - The bidder is a company that has been providing consultancy and project management services for at least three years.
 - The proposed project manager will have at least ten years of proven experience in project management and have managed the development and implementation of at least 2 projects of Computerized Maintenance Management Systems in an organization of at least 100 maintenance workers and over 400 employees in the overall organization.
 - Obligatory participation in the supplier's meeting to be held on February 27, 1997, at 09:00 a.m. in the PRA offices at 74 Petach Tikva Road, Tel Aviv, 6th floor, conference room.
 - The bidder will attach to its bid all the required certificates in accordance with the Public Bodies Transactions (enforcement of bookkeeping and payment of tax debts) Law 1978.
- The tender documents can be purchased from:
The Purchasing Division, Ports and Railways Authority, 74 Petach Tikva Road, 11th Floor, Room 1103,
for the non-refundable sum of NIS 1,170 (including VAT).
- Queries can be referred, in writing, prior to the suppliers' meeting to Mr. David Shaked, Fax: 03-5617143. Answers will be provided to all participants during the suppliers' meeting.
- The bid should be submitted in 7 copies, in a sealed envelope, and should be placed in the tender box, located at the address specified in paragraph 3 above.
- The final date for submission of bids is March 25, 1997 at 14:00 hours.
- The Ports and Railways Authority does not undertake to accept the least expensive bid, or any other bid. The Authority retains the right to negotiate with the bidder/s whose bids are found suitable.

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